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BREAKTHROUGH

North Korea agrees to join Winter Olympics, discuss easing military hostilities with South

By KIM GAMEL
AND Yoo KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea agreed Tuesday to send athletes and officials to next month's Winter Olympics in

the South and to discuss easing military hostilities in a diplomatic breakthrough following months of heightened tensions over the North's fast-moving nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The breakthrough occurred during a meeting between the Koreans in the truce

village of Panmunjom after the North Korean delegation walked across the Military Demarcation Line that has divided the peninsula since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Seoul also said separately that it may consider temporarily lifting economic

sanctions aimed at punishing the North for its nuclear weapons program to facilitate the participation in the Winter Games. It would be the first time North Korea has taken part in the Winter Olympics in eight years.

SEE TALKS ON PAGE 5

Ri Song Gwon, right, the head of the North Korean delegation, shakes hands with South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon after their meeting at Panmunjom, Korea, on Tuesday. North Korea agreed to send a delegation to next month's Winter Olympics in South Korea and reopen a military hotline.

Korea Pool, Yonhap/AP

Airmen receive Distinguished Flying Cross for actions during airdrop in Afghanistan

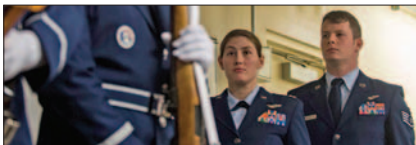
By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The MC-103J Commando II airplane rumbled low to the ground, nearing the intense firefight below where a team of American special operators and allied commandos were encircled by Taliban fighters in a remote part of

Afghanistan.

One Green Beret had been killed and another soldier had been seriously wounded. The remaining force was out of water and nearly out of ammunition — each soldier with as little as one magazine of rounds left. They were in danger of being overrun.

SEE DFC ON PAGE 4



Capt. Charlotte Raabe and Staff Sgt. Gary Bjerke are awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on Friday at Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico for their heroism on an emergency resupply mission in Afghanistan in 2016.

Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

MILITARY

Navy: No plans to base troops back in Iceland

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Although the U.S. Navy is refurbishing facilities on a former air base in Iceland as part of a renewed military focus on the North Atlantic, Navy officials say that does not mean a return of stationing U.S. troops in the strategically vital nation.

The Navy has been allotted nearly \$36 million in the two most recent defense budgets to refurbish a hangar at Naval Air Station Keflavik to accommodate its submarine-hunting P-8A Poseidon jets.

The funding comes from an initiative begun after Russia's 2014 invasion of Crimea, and as a response to Moscow sending more sophisticated submarines and surface warships into the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

But it is not a precursor to a return of U.S. troops to Keflavik Air Base, which once hosted some 5,000 of them.

The U.S. military built the base during World War II as a way-station for planes ferrying personnel, equipment and supplies to Europe. It was used by U.S. and NATO forces throughout the Cold War and was finally deactivated in 2006.

"While Iceland remains a strong NATO ally, the U.S. has no plans to re-establish a permanent presence in Iceland," said Cmdr. Pamela Rawe, a spokeswoman for U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa.

"The P-8A aircraft that operate out of Iceland do so on a rotational basis," Rawe said. "This means that when they are participating in an operation or exercise they work out of Keflavik Air Base and then return to their 'hub' in Sigonella, Italy."

Rawe said that the first squadron of Boeing P-8A maritime reconnaissance aircraft, which are replacing the turbo-prop Lockheed P-3C Orions throughout the Navy, deployed to Europe in September 2016. Generally, she said, one or two P-8s — of a squadron of seven or eight planes — operate out of Iceland, usually for military exercises and on no set schedule.

Still, experts say they expect more patrolling above the waters in the "GIUK gap" — an acronym for Greenland, Iceland and the United Kingdom — the North Atlantic's chokepoint as well as the route for Russia's northern fleet to enter the Atlantic Ocean.

That location makes Iceland a



MATTHEW NEWMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A P-8A Poseidon aircraft, assigned to Patrol Squadron 45, flies over Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, on Oct. 26, 2016. The Navy has been allotted nearly \$36 million to refurbish a hangar for the aircraft.

key strategic asset.

It is "the unsinkable aircraft carrier in the middle of the Atlantic that you can fly from," said Magnus Nordenman at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank. "It's had enduring importance for the defense of the North Atlantic."

Nordenman said that after decades of "almost complete abandonment" of the North Atlantic in favor of operations elsewhere in the world, NATO had a renewed focus there. Britain and Norway are also buying P-8s, he said, and NATO has discussed forming a new "Atlantic Command" to

deal with what's perceived as an emerging threat.

"For decades the north Atlantic didn't matter. The Russian fleet was barely moving out of port," Nordenman said. "That's changed with Russian aggressiveness. There really is a return of focus."

But Iceland is also a pacifist country with no armed forces and decidedly mixed feelings about the United States military presence.

"It's a unique NATO member," Nordenman said. "What makes it important is its geography."

Last month the country's new

prime minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, said she wanted more information about the plans and whether the U.S. needed Iceland's permission to proceed.

"I have also spoken with the foreign minister about the matter and there are no plans for any permanent long-term (military) presence, which to my mind is important," she told the Reykjavik Grapevine.

Rawe said the military construction projects are being done "in full coordination with the government of Iceland."

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PACIFIC

Marine honored for heroism after water rescue

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP SCHWAB, Okinawa — It didn't take long for diver Justin Kinjo to realize he had made a critical mistake after entering the surf last spring near Mermaid Grotto in Manzo-Mo, Okinawa.

Waves smashed over the Okinawan father of two as he made his way out, pushing him down and back toward shore, ripping his regulator out of his mouth and stripping him of everything but his wetsuit and oxygen tank.

At the same time, a rip current tugged at him from underneath the surface, pulling him out and ensuring he was stuck in place. Making matters worse, he got his leg stuck in the coral reef.

The situation was dire. Two of his dive partners found themselves in equally precarious situations. As panic began to set in, Kinjo raised his hand and called for help in a last-ditch effort to save his life. He said people on shore just stood around and stared.

"I got you," came the simple, unflinching reply from a tall and thin American who was almost to shore, Kinjo recalled this week. The man then re-entered the treacherous surf and made his way for Kinjo and his party.

Marine 1st Lt. Aaron Cranford, a supply officer from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, made repeated trips out into the danger zone. The 26-year-old from Fort Worth, Texas, saved the lives of four people, including Kinjo, that day.

Cranford received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal — the Department of the Navy's highest award for heroism outside of combat — Monday in a ceremony at Camp Schwab. Kinjo was on hand to thank him.

"I owe him my life, man," Kinjo said after Maj. Gen. Craig Timberlake, 3rd Marine Division commander, pinned the medal on Cranford's chest. "If it wasn't for him, all of us would be dead. My kids wouldn't have been able to enjoy Christmas as a family."

The sun was shining and the



MATT BURKE/Stars and Stripes

From left, Marine 1st Lt. Aaron Cranford, Justin Kinjo, Yusuke Teruya and Maj. John Mahler pose at Camp Schwab, Okinawa, after Cranford received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on Monday. Cranford saved Kinjo, Teruya and two others from drowning in April 2017.

conditions looked inviting when Cranford and several colleagues headed out on the morning of April 23. Mermaid Grotto is a popular diving spot on Okinawa. The interior pools teem with colorful tropical fish and are protected by overarching rock formations.

However, the grotto and the surrounding coastline are often dangerous, and claimed the lives of three U.S. servicemembers in October 2016.

The group dove for about 35 minutes, reaching a depth of about 60 feet and had a "really good dive," said Maj. John Mahler, who was part of the party that day. Cranford — a master diver and by far the most experienced — led the expedition. "As we were coming back to our entry and exit point, the conditions had changed drastically," Mahler said. The tide had come in and waves had increased to 5 or 6 feet.

Cranford organized the group and instructed them to turn their backs to shore and use their tanks for protection against the reef, and then back in toward dry land. They were pummeled against the



JOSE MARQUEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Cranford receives the Navy and Marine Corps Medal from Maj. Gen. Craig Timberlake, 3rd Marine Division commander.

reef and exhausted but he saw everyone get out safely. He was getting into himself when Kinjo called for help.

"It was pretty clear they were in distress," said Cranford, who instructed his friends' dive partners to stay out of the water. He went back in by himself.

As he got to Kinjo, the Okinawa City bar owner was in unbridled distress. Kinjo grabbed Cranford's buoyancy control device and tried to push him under to remain above the water.

"Justin didn't know what was going on," Cranford said. "His mental state was starting to

decline."

Cranford subdued Kinjo and turned him around. He put his regulator in his mouth to stop him from swallowing seawater, then dragged him to shore. He returned two more times and repeated the rescue, carrying one person to shore at a time.

An onlooker had ignored warnings not to enter the water and attempted to wade out to help without protective gear. He was sucked out in the rip current and skewered by sea urchins. All he could do was hang onto the reef and wait for Cranford.

Cranford put that man on top of himself to keep him above the water and carried him to shore.

Timberlake called Cranford a "superb representative" of the Marine Corps.

"I'm sure when friends give Lt. Cranford some time to talk, he's gonna say, 'Hey listen, I only did what anybody else would do,'" Timberlake said during Monday's award ceremony. "I hear that a lot but that's not necessarily true. What he did took a hell of a lot of guts and a hell of a lot of courage."

Cranford said he was honored by the award but shrugged off the praise. He credits the emergency rescue diver course he took at Texas A&M with preparing him to make the rescue and God for placing him in the right place at the right time.

"It's just a gut reaction," he said. "You know what to do and you go do it. I didn't really ever take into consideration whether it was a threat to myself or not ... receiving the award really comes down to honoring those who trained me and are still investing in the lives of others."

Kinjo sees it differently. Both he and his sons see Cranford as a hero, and they plan to return to Camp Schwab to thank him again.

"I owe you my life, man," Kinjo said to Cranford after Monday's ceremony. "Come out for a drink; I got you."

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US commander criticizes response to base security breach

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The top U.S. commander in South Korea criticized the response to a breach of a gate at Camp Humphreys after a South Korean man managed to gain unauthorized entry to the base three times.

The man drove through the main gate at the sprawling base south of Seoul at 4:20 a.m. Saturday but was detained by military police about 10 minutes later and handed over to South Korean officials.

Public affairs officials initially didn't mention that it had happened before. However, U.S. Forces Korea put out a statement Tuesday saying the man had breached security for the third time in a matter of days but "was successfully interdicted each time by Camp Humphreys' authorities without incident or injury."

Gen. Vincent Brooks expressed concern about how the intrusions had been handled

and called for vigilance about force protection on U.S. installations peninsulawide.

"I am disappointed this individual wasn't dealt with better after the initial incident or even his second attempt to breach security," Brooks said in the statement. "We will work with local leadership adjacent to all of our bases — to include those in Pyeonhwa near Camp Humphreys — to ensure these types of dangerous situations don't occur at our various installations."

USFK noted such breaches "have the potential to endanger the safety of those who live and work on base, as well as those in the surrounding community." U.S. military personnel and South Korean authorities were still investigating the incidents, it said. No gunshots were fired and no injuries were reported, military officials said.

Eighth Army spokeswoman Lt. Col. Christina Wright said earlier that a bar that drops in front of vehicles was damaged in the incident.

"While they were working to repair the damage, they took the opportunity to conduct scheduled maintenance on the gate," she told Stars and Stripes in an email. "During the scheduled maintenance the gate remained open with one lane closed for repair."

The breaches did not appear to have been publicly announced.

Wright declined to answer questions about the response to avoid discussing specific security measures publicly.

Two local police officials, who agreed to discuss the case on condition of anonymity, said the suspect was known to suffer from mental illness and frequently stood outside the base.

Gates at Humphreys and most other U.S. installations on the divided peninsula are staffed by civilian security guards who work for a private contractor.

The intrusion happened as tensions are high over North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

A newly expanded Camp Humphreys, about 40 miles south of Seoul, is home to Eighth Army headquarters and will eventually house the bulk of USFK after a much-delayed project to relocate them from Seoul and other bases near the border with North Korea.

The United States has about 28,500 servicemembers along with family members and civilian contractors based in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after the 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

In 2015, Yokota Air Base in Japan was locked down for nearly four hours after a man with a suspicious package gained unauthorized access to the base before he was arrested.

Stars and Stripes reporters Marcus Fichtl and Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report. gamel.kim@stripes.com
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MILITARY

DFC: MC-130J crew delivered supplies as it took enemy fire

FROM FRONT PAGE

The MC-130J crew refused to hesitate, even as insurgents turned machine guns and anti-aircraft artillery toward the bustling turbo-prop transport plane. Taking heavy fire, the crew made life-saving calculations and decisions necessary to drop a combat load of water, food and ammunition to the American and allied fighters below, ultimately allowing them to hold off the attack and survive the Jan. 5, 2016, encounter, according to Air Force award citations and documents.

On Friday, exactly two years to the day of that mission, two of the six Air Force special operators naming the MC-130J that day were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for their heroic actions that ensured the success of the mission, said Air Force Brig. Gen. William Holt II, director of operations for Air Force Special Operations Command. All six members of the crew have been approved to receive the decoration, he added.

"They didn't hesitate because there were friendly forces on the ground inside that compound that were under fire from 360 degrees," Holt said Friday, moments before pinning the Distinguished Flying Cross on Capt. Charlotte Raabe and Staff Sgt. Gary Bjerkie during a ceremony at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. "The crew had to perform quickly, at low level, during mid-day, under intense enemy fire, and that's exactly what they did."

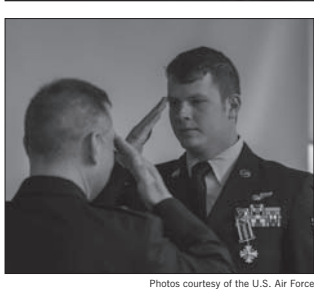
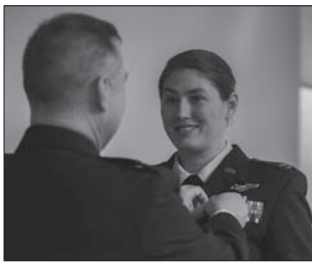
Raabe, then a first lieutenant, was serving as the combat systems officer aboard the MC-130J aircraft. She was credited for making on-the-fly calculations to direct the pilots away from incoming artillery rounds and, eventually, into the proper position to make a precision airdrop, according to the citation for her award.

"Although her aircraft was struck multiple times by enemy fire, [Raabe's] decisive actions and expeditious recalculation of the combat airdrop led to the successful resupply," it read.

Meanwhile, from the rear of the aircraft, Bjerkie, then a senior airman and the crew's loadmaster, watched the incoming fire as he prepared to drop the supplies, which had to land within 50 meters of the American troops or risk falling into enemy hands, his award citation read.

"Bjerkie notified the pilots they were taking fire, despite the high potential for surface to air engagement, Airman Bjerkie diligently prepared the resupply bundles for airdrop as the aircraft flew through the effective lethal range of small arms and anti-aircraft artillery," the citation stated. "... Under direct fire from enemy forces, Airman Bjerkie's decisive actions and initiative led to the successful resupply ... of the Special Forces team, halting any further loss of life."

The crew understood the dire situation on the ground, Bjerkie said.



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force Capt. Charlotte Raabe, top, and Air Force Staff Sgt. Gary Bjerkie, above, were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on Friday, exactly two years to the day of the Afghanistan mission that earned their entire MC-130J crew the award.

"It did not set in that we were taking fire until the ramp and door had opened," he said in an Air Force statement. "I distinctly remember hearing the cracks of the bullets passing behind the aircraft. The only thing I could think of was this resupply needed to be executed successfully."

In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross awards, the MC-130J crew from the 9th Special Operations Squadron received the Lt. Gen. William H. Tunner Award for the most outstanding airlift crew in the Air Force, Holt said.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is the nation's oldest award for military aviation accomplishment. The vast majority of the awards are received for extraordinary achievement, Holt said.

"Very, very few are awarded for heroism in combat," the general said. "Both of these are valor awards for heroism in combat ... joining a very small group of military aviators. These are two exceptional Americans right here."

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Army probing GI's death at Kosovo post

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Army is investigating the death of a U.S. soldier who died Saturday while serving as part of NATO's peacekeeping force in Kosovo.

Spc. Robert W. Jones, 21, died at Camp Bondsteel, U.S. Army Europe said Tuesday.

"The death is currently under investigation," the Army said.

Jones was a Military Police dog handler assigned to the 709th Military Police Battalion, based at Grafenwoehr, Germany.

"Spc. Robert Jones was a remarkable Soldier," Lt. Col. Jeffrey Searl, 709th Military Police Battalion commander, said in a statement. "He volunteered to

serve his nation and we mourn his tragic loss."

The Army did not provide any details about the circumstances surrounding Jones' death.

Jones joined the Army in 2015 and has served with the 18th Military Police Brigade since April 2016, according to USAREUR. For his service in Kosovo, Jones was awarded the NATO Medal.

For nearly 20 years, U.S. forces, along with those from alliance and partner nations, have been deploying to Kosovo to serve in a long-running peacekeeping mission. U.S. troops, often drawn from National Guard and Reserve units, have regularly rotated to Kosovo since NATO's 1999 bombing campaign that forced

the withdrawal of Serbian troops.

In 2008, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia, but ethnic tensions in the region persist.

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Rough day at 'The Office' for Army's Twitter account

By ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

U.S. Army media officials designated Saturday to be one of the biggest public awareness days of the year. It accidentally may have pulled that off.

The All-American Bowl, a nationally televised high school football game featuring the top talent in the country, was held Saturday and sponsored by the Army for the 17th straight year. At the time of \$9 million, the game is one the service's main marketing thrusts, tapping into soon-to-be high school graduates — its main recruitment pipeline.

But the Army may have inadvertently drawn more eyes to its glaring Twitter misfire over the weekend by liking "The Office" and "The Mindy Project" star Mindy Kaling's apparently critical tweet of President Donald Trump and speculation over his mental fitness.

Trump, in a three-tweet salvo defending himself against critical remarks in journalist Michael Wolff's new book, "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House," said he was a "very stable genius." That language generated much discussion and analysis, as did a very specific word and comma combination.

"Actually, throughout my life, my two greatest assets have been mental stability and being, like, really smart," Trump said in his second tweet.

Just a few hours after Trump's tweet, Kaling posted a meme of her "Office" character Kelly Kapoor on Twitter with a line of dialogue — "You guys, I'm like really smart now; you don't even know it" — from "The Office," drawing attention to the president's choice of words.

It also drew attention of the Army's official Twitter account, which has the largest following of the military services. An operator of the page liked Kaling's tweet even though hers is not among the 542 accounts it follows.

"An operator of the Army's official Twitter account inadvertently 'liked' a tweet whose content would not be endorsed by the Department of the Army. As soon

as it was brought to our attention, it was immediately corrected," Army spokeswoman Lt. Col. Nina Hill said Monday.

The mistake was similar to a November incident involving the Pentagon's official Twitter account. The page retweeted a post demanding that Trump, then-Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., and defeated U.S. Senate candidate for Alabama Roy Moore leave politics amid sexual assault allegations. Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said on Twitter afterward that "an authorized operator" of the account "erroneously retweeted content that would not be endorsed by the Department of Defense." That person noticed the error "and immediately deleted it," she said.

Military public affairs staffers undergo training before they receive the keys to official accounts, including instructions on keeping classified information secured and preventing digital triangulation from posts tagged with the sender's physical location. A publicly available slide presentation, done in the style almost uniformly derided by troops as "death by PowerPoint," advises social media managers that "while it's good to have fun with social media, don't ever forget to maintain professionalism."

Kaling is far from Kapoor's sometimes oblivious, sometimes crafty gossip queen who frets over celebrities and her on-again, off-again relationship with temp Ryan Howard, played by B.J. Novak. The actress, writer and director created her own show on Fox and Hulu and wrote two books.

After acknowledging the Army's mistake later Saturday evening, Kaling posted the Army's recruiting slogan with a buff arm and heart emoji.

This year was the last for the Army to sponsor the All-American Bowl, but Kaling seemed to be everywhere in 2018, starting in the film "A Wrinkle in Time" and "Ocean's Eight."

The Army did not respond to a question asking if it was exploring Kaling as a potential spokeswoman for young recruits.

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PACIFIC

Talks: Koreans agree to future meetings on issues beyond Olympics

FROM FRONT PAGE

North Korea's chief delegate, Ri Son Gwon, shook hands with his South Korean counterpart, Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon, before a plenary session began with five officials from each side facing each other across a long, wooden table.

The delegates broke for lunch, then continued meeting into the evening before issuing a joint statement that went further than many had anticipated by including an agreement to hold more talks on issues beyond the Olympics.

"I think we should be engaged in these talks in an earnest, sincere manner to give a New Year's first gift and precious results to the Korean people," Ri said at the start of the talks, according to a pool report.

A smiling Ri — a veteran negotiator and the head of the state agency that handles affairs with the South — proposed that the meeting be opened to the media, but Cho rebuffed the idea.

"These talks started after long-frayed inter-Korean ties," Cho said later. "Well begun is half done."

The main item on the agenda was the possibility that the North will participate in the Feb. 9-25 Olympics, which will be held in the South Korean resort town of Pyeongchang — just 50 miles from the heavily fortified border.

But South Korea expressed a desire to use the opportunity to put the sides on the path to improved relations. The meeting was limited to the Koreans but was closely watched by the United States and other countries as a test for possible wider engagement with Pyongyang.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un were reportedly able to monitor the talks in real time, with a hotline at their disposal to intervene if necessary.

Olympic diplomacy

North Korea has used past negotiations to wrangle concessions

and aid from the West, and critics warned that Pyongyang might be trying to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington in a bid to ease sanctions and other international pressure.

But the meeting was a victory for Moon, who has pressed for a peaceful resolution to the nuclear crisis and sought North Korean participation in the Olympics to aid that effort and alleviate security concerns.

Cho reflected those hopes, telling reporters before leaving for the Demilitarized Zone that "we will try to make the Pyeongchang Games and the Paralympics a peace festival and hope it will serve as the first step toward an improvement in inter-Korean ties."

South Korean Vice Unification Minister and fellow delegate Chun Hae-sung later said the North agreed to send a delegation including officials, athletes, a cheering squad and an art troupe, a taekwondo demonstration team and journalists.

Seoul, meanwhile, proposed that the Koreans conduct a joint march during the opening and closing Olympic ceremonies, according to Chun.

The International Olympic Committee said Monday that it has "kept the door open" for North Korea to participate by extending the registration deadline and offering support for the country's athletes.

That would resurrect the Olympic dreams of North Korean figure skaters Kyom Tae Ok and Kim Ju Sik. The pair qualified in September but the North's National Olympic Committee missed the deadline to register in October.

North Korea also said it restored another military hotline that had been suspended with the South, the second such reopening in a week. The communication channels had been suspended as hostilities over the North's nuclear program flared.

A joint statement issued after the talks confirmed the agreement. It also said the North had



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

South Korean soldiers adjust barricades after South Korea's delegation vehicles arrived at Unification Bridge, which leads to Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone in Paju, South Korea, on Tuesday.

agreed to further talks to hammer out the details about its Olympic participation as well as South Korea's proposal to hold military talks to reduce tensions.

The statement did not mention South Korea's proposal to resume reunions of families left divided by the war in time for the Lunar New Year holiday next month.

The South Koreans called for a resumption of negotiations over the North's nuclear program but received no specific response, Chun said. However, he stressed that the North Korean officials said they wanted to promote reconciliation between the two countries through dialogue.

Foreign ministry spokesman Noh Kyu-duk also told reporters that the South might consider a measure temporarily lifting sanctions against the North if necessary to enable its Olympic participation, but only in close coordination with the United States and other countries.

Easing tensions

The high-profile meeting came after more than two years of crisis over North Korea's nuclear weapons progress, beginning with the communist state's fourth nuclear test in January 2016. The North has since conducted two other nuclear tests and tested first dozens of missiles, most recently an ICBM on Nov. 29.

President Donald Trump has

engaged in a war of words with Pyongyang that many fear has pushed the peninsula to the brink of conflict.

The State Department said Tuesday's talks were a good start to defusing tensions but it's too soon to know if there will be meaning beyond the Olympic preparations.

Brian Hook, a chief adviser to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, told reporters in a conference call that sanctions would continue until the U.S. goal of "complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" was achieved.

Hook said Trump believes his pressure campaign was responsible for persuading the North to agree to the renewed dialogue, according to The Associated Press.

Kim Jong Un said in his New Year's Day address that he was willing to send a delegation to the Olympics.

At the same time he warned the U.S. that a nuclear button sits on his desk. That prompted Trump to boast that his nuclear button is "much bigger and more powerful."

Moon proposed holding talks, and Pyongyang accepted the offer last week after Seoul and Washington agreed to postpone joint war games until after the March 8-18 Paralympics.

Trump appeared to soften his tone, saying over the weekend

that he would be willing to speak by phone with the North Korean leader. But the U.S. administration insisted it was not relaxing its goal of denuclearization.

The last formal talks between the two Koreas were held in December 2015.

Panmunjom is the only point in the DMZ where troops from the two sides come face to face. It was also the site of a dramatic defection of a North Korean soldier who fled to the South under a barrage of gunfire by his former comrades last year.

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Rescuers find body from tanker crash in China sea

Associated Press

BEIJING — Rescuers found a body believed to be of a sailor from the Iranian oil tanker set ablaze after a collision in the East China Sea, China's Ministry of Transportation said Tuesday, as the search continued for another 31 missing from the same ship.

The ministry said the body recovered Monday had yet to be identified but was wearing a protective suit designed to withstand cold seawater. There was no further word about the others missing since the Panamanian-registered Sanchi collided with a freighter late Saturday.

Chinese media said the tanker was still on fire Tuesday and at risk of exploding.

The tanker was carrying 136,000 metric tons (nearly 1 million barrels) of condensate, a type of gas, ultra-light oil, when it collided with the Hong Kong-registered freighter CF Crystal. All 21 crew members of the Crystal, which was carrying grain from the United States to China, were rescued, the Chinese ministry said. The Crystal's crew members were all Chinese nationals.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the collision, which happened in open seas rather than a narrow channel where such accidents

are more common.

Ships and aircraft from South Korea and the U.S. are aiding in rescue efforts, which have been hampered by fierce fires and poisonous gases that have engulfed the tanker and surrounding waters.

The collision has set off concerns of a potential environmental disaster, although condensate is more likely to evaporate or burn off immediately than thick, heavy crude oil. However, the Sanchi's own fuel that leaked during the collision will be more difficult to clean, especially if the tanker explodes and sinks.

WAR/MILITARY

Trump order eyes better vet mental health care

By NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday afternoon paving the way for servicemembers to be enrolled automatically with the Department of Veterans Affairs for mental health care when they leave the military — an attempt to eliminate barriers for transitioning troops to get treatment during their first year after service.

The order, titled “Supporting Our Veterans During Their Transition from Uniformed Service to Civilian Life,” directs the VA, Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security to develop a plan by March 9 on how to seamlessly provide mental health care to new veterans.

Surrounded by VA and Defense Department officials, Trump said the order was “a historic step to make sure veterans are taken care of in the proper manner.”

He signed the order in a quick ceremony in the Oval Office.

The action highlights the issue of veteran suicide, which VA Secretary David Shulkin has named as his top clinical priority. Every day in 2014, an average of 20 veterans succumbed to suicide, according to the latest available VA data. According to a 2016 study from the Naval Postgraduate School, transitioning veterans are particularly at risk.

“People may not realize the highest risk for veteran suicide is in the 12 months following transition out of service,” Shulkin said. “That’s why we’re taking this unprecedented step.”

Veterans who use VA services are less likely than other veterans to succumb to suicide, VA data show.

Officials with the Trump administration, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Tuesday that many transitioning servicemembers have difficulty enrolling in VA health care because of the complex process in place.

Only 40 percent of new veterans enroll in the VA in their first

year out of the service, Shulkin said.

In the next 60 days, the departments will work out specifics of how to allow troops exiting after March 9 to be enrolled automatically in VA mental health care, with the option to opt out.

New veterans wouldn’t be required to have served in combat in order to be eligible for one year of mental health care, and they wouldn’t have to prove their military service caused mental health problems, Shulkin said Tuesday during a teleconference with reporters.

A Trump administration official said approximately 265,000 troops leave the military every year, and the changes would come at an annual cost of hundreds of millions of dollars to the VA and Defense Department. The funds will be diverted from within the departments’ regular budgets, but specifics on where exactly the money would come from were not made available Tuesday.

New veterans will be permitted to use the Veterans Choice pro-

gram, which allows them to seek care in the private sector.

The new policy does not apply to veterans with other-than-honorable discharges — a population cut off from some VA services and seen as particularly at-risk for mental health issues.

More than 13,000 servicemembers separated from the military for misconduct in recent years suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or another disorder and were prevented from receiving treatment from the VA because of their discharge status, according to a recent report from the Government Accountability Office.

Last March, Shulkin announced the VA would offer those veterans 90 days of mental health care in emergency situations. Since that change was put into effect in July, 3,200 veterans with other-than-honorable discharges have utilized that care.

Administration officials said Tuesday that the VA needs more authority from Congress to provide veterans with other-than-honorable discharges more than

90 days of emergency mental health care.

“It’s our hope that if Dr. Shulkin feels he’s done all that he can for veterans with bad paper that the president will stand with veterans’ service organizations and instruct Congress to expand the statutory authority of the secretary to ensure that our country leaves no veteran behind,” said Kristofer Goldsmith, a longtime advocate of veterans with other-than-honorable discharges.

Reed Cordish, an assistant to Trump, said the changes announced Tuesday showed the president’s commitment to modernizing the VA. During his campaign, Trump criticized the agency as the “most corrupt” in Washington, but he has recently praised the department as making progress.

The American Legion said the changes announced Tuesday would be part of “an important safety net” available to transitioning servicemembers.

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Alleged 9/11 plotters claim Gitmo sexual harassment

By CAROL ROSENBERG

Miami Herald

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — The first war court session of the year got off to a rocky start Monday with the alleged 9/11 plotters accusing the guard force of sexual harassment by conducting “groin searches” instead of using scanners.

“We’ve been under sexual harassment today for search in being here,” Khalid Sheikh Mohammed announced in broken English in court.

The judge, Army Col. James Pohl, was asking the accused mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks whether he understood he could voluntarily waive attendance for the rest of this seven-day court session of pretrial hearings.

One by one, the other four alleged plotters echoed Mohammed’s complaints. Alleged plot deputy Ramzi bin al Shibh called it a “sexual harassment search,” and alleged co-conspirator Mustafa al Hawsawi announced he wanted to leave the court immediately, voluntarily. Pohl recessed so guards could remove from the court the Saudi, who suffered rectal damage under CIA custody, along with the pillow he sits on during hearings.

Case prosecutor Bob Swann told the judge that the prison had chosen that day to implement an approved standard operating procedure that permits physical groin searches; the military had in the past used metal detectors and other electronic devices to see whether Camp 7’s high-value detainees had something hidden in their genital areas.

Pohl ordered the prison to bring a witness to explain the change in practice, per-



CAROL ROSENBERG, MIAMI HERALD/TNS

The war court is headquartered at Camp Justice, as seen through a broken window at an obsolete air hangar at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

haps as early as Wednesday. Left unclear was whether the testimony would be heard in open court.

The five men are accused of directing or helping the 19 hijackers who crashed four commercial airliners in New York, at the Pentagon and in a Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, 2001, killing 2,976 people. They were arraigned in May 2012, and the court has been holding periodic pretrial hearings ever since.

The episode was one of several changes at the war court in the first hearing of 2018, with new faces among the soldiers handling some security arrangements. Mohammed’s defense attorney, David Nevin, said he was confronted by guards wanting to search his privileged material, and instead locked the backpack he routinely brought to court for years in his car at Camp Justice. He told Pohl that without his materials, he was under “restrictions in my ability to practice law.”

Pohl ordered the guards to permit Nevin

to bring his material to court without a search.

Guantanamo’s former CIA captives, held in a secret lockup called Camp 7, have access to certain free satellite news networks — for example, Russia’s RT and Iran’s Press TV channels — and would therefore be well aware of the ongoing sexual harassment controversy in the United States.

But the groin search issue is not new. At times, it has been litigated in federal court among the general population prisoners, with low-value captives complaining through their lawyers that the physical handling of their genitals was a violation of their Muslim faith.

In 2013, a federal judge prohibited the practice, but then a higher court granted the prison permission to conduct the searches.

Different commanders have wielded the power differently, with most using wands and other electronic devices to check the captives’ genital areas.

US servicemember dies in noncombat incident in SW Asia

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

A servicemember died Monday in a noncombat incident in southwest Asia, according to the U.S.-led coalition fighting Islamic State.

Neither the servicemember nor the specific location of the death was identified.

“The servicemember’s name and the circumstances surrounding the death will be released at the discretion of the pertinent national authorities,” stated an email release from the Combined Joint Task Force — Operation Inherent Resolve.

The Pentagon typically withholds identification of U.S. casualties pending notification of family. It withheld the nationality of a casualty from the United Kingdom in an initial notice a year ago, but more recently has withheld such information in its first announcements concerning at least three U.S. casualties since November.

The lack of initial detail could be an attempt to prevent families from speculating or worrying about the identity of the dead servicemember. The top U.S. general in Afghanistan briefly instituted a policy of delaying casualty notices last summer, citing similar reasons, though officials there have not followed the practice in recent months.

The death marks the first casualty of 2018 for Operation Inherent Resolve, the alliance of 70 nations and four organizations battling ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

ISIS has lost almost all of the territory it once held in the region, but the U.S.-led coalition continues to back local forces working to clear the last remnants of the terrorist group, which U.S. officials have said consists of small cells of fighters totaling roughly 1,000.

The incident is under investigation, the coalition said.

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NATION



PAUL DRINKWATER, NBC/AP

Oprah Winfrey accepts the Cecil B. DeMille Award as presenter Reese Witherspoon looks on at the 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday.

Winfrey's speech sparks talk of campaign in 2020

By THOMAS BEAUMONT
AND STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Oprah Winfrey's impassioned call for "a brighter morning even in our darkest nights" at the Golden Globes has Democratic Party activists buzzing about the media superstar and the 2020 presidential race — even if it's only a fantasy.

Even so, for Democrats in early voting states, and perhaps for a public that largely disapproves of President Donald Trump's job performance, the notion of a popular media figure as a presidential candidate is not as strange as it once seemed, given the New York real estate mogul and reality TV star now in the White House.

"Look, it's ridiculous — and I get that," said Brad Anderson, President Barack Obama's 2012 Iowa campaign director. While he supports the idea of Winfrey running, it would also punctuate how Trump's candidacy has altered political norms. "At the same time, politics is ridiculous right now."

Winfrey's speech as she accepted the Cecil B. DeMille lifetime achievement award on Sunday touched on her humble upbringing and childhood wonder in civil rights heroes.

But it was her exhortation of the legions of women who have called out sexual harassers — and her dream of a day "when nobody has to say 'me too' again" — that got some political operatives in early voting states such as Iowa and North Carolina thinking Winfrey might be just what the Democrats need.

"I think we need more role models like her that are speaking to young women and trying to restore some hope. The election of Donald Trump was a devastating setback for little girls," said Liz

Purdy, who led Democrat Hillary Clinton's 2008 New Hampshire presidential primary campaign.

Even Trump's daughter, Ivanka, endorsed Oprah's message, if not a political future, in a tweet Monday. "Just saw @Oprah's empowering and inspiring speech at last night's #GoldenGlobes. Let's all

come together, women & men, & say #TIME-SUP!

'Look, it's ridiculous — and I get that. At the same time, politics is ridiculous right now.'

Brad Anderson
President Barack Obama's 2012 Iowa campaign director

by several women of sexual harassment and was recorded bragging about sexual assault.

"Great!" Milano responded to Ivanka's tweet. "You can make a lofty donation to the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund that is available to support your father's accusers."

Trump's job approval rating sat at just 32 percent in December, according to an Associated Press-NORC poll. Though polls show his approval up slightly since, Trump is the least popular first-year president on record. He has been accused by multiple women of sexual misconduct, though he has vehemently denied the allegations.

Winfrey, in September and October, publicly dismissed the notion of seeking the nation's highest office, though she noted that

Trump's victory made her rethink the requirements of the office.

A representative for Winfrey did not reply to a request Monday for comment from the AP. Winfrey's longtime partner, Stedman Graham, told the Los Angeles Times that "it's up to the people" whether she will be president, adding, "She would absolutely do it."

Winfrey, 64, has become a cultural phenomenon over the past 30-plus years, born into a poor home in Mississippi but breaking through as a television news and talk show personality in the 1980s. Over 30 years, she became the face of television talk shows, starred and produced feature films and began her own network.

Trump himself has lavished praise on Winfrey over the years, including in 2015, when he said that he would consider her as a running mate on his Republican ticket. "I like Oprah," Trump told ABC News in June 2015. "I think Oprah would be great. I'd love to have Oprah. I think we'd win easily, actually."

It echoed comments Trump made in 1999, when he was weighing a presidential candidacy in the Reform Party. "If she'd do it, she'd be fantastic. I mean, she's popular, she's brilliant, she's a wonderful woman," Trump told CNN's Larry King.

NBC tweeted a picture of a smiling Winfrey under the message, "Nothing but respect for our future president. #goldenglobes." It quickly attracted attention, including Donald Trump Jr.'s. The president's son retweeted it, calling it "strange."

The network later deleted the tweet and explained that it was done by a "third party agency" and was a reference to a joke by Golden Globes host Seth Meyers.

After postponement, vice president to visit Middle East this month

By KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence will travel to Egypt, Jordan and Israel this month after postponing a trip to the Middle East in December following President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the White House announced Monday.

Pence's trip to the Middle East will insert him into a debate over the role of the U.S. in any future peace process between Israel and the Palestinians and follows Trump's apparent threats to cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority. The president last week questioned why the U.S. should make "any of these massive future payments" when the Palestinians are "no longer willing to talk peace."

The White House said Pence will travel to the region Jan. 19-23, starting with a meeting in Cairo with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. Pence will also confer with King Abdullah II, of Jordan, and then hold two days of meetings and events in Israel.

Pence's agenda in Israel includes meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin, an address to the Knesset and visits to the Western Wall and the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial. The White House said Pence will address the need to combat terrorism and help persecuted religious minorities.

Trump, along with United Na-

tions Ambassador Nikki Haley, have been questioning future aid to the Palestinians as part of the fallout of Trump's recognition of Jerusalem and using the aid as leverage until the Palestinians show a willingness to come back to the negotiating table.

Pence postponed his visit to Israel and Egypt in mid-December because of a Senate vote on Trump's tax overhaul.

But Pence's trip to the Middle East, his first as vice president, will be carefully watched following Trump's decision on Israel's capital, which prompted Palestinian leaders to cancel planned meetings with the vice president.

Ilan Goldenberg, director of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security, said the recent movements by the Trump administration have been "inconsistent with the 'cooling off period'" cited by the White House.

"In some ways, this trip could now become the moment where the Trump administration finally walks away from the notion of a serious peace negotiation and just goes full in with the Israelis," Goldenberg said.

Pence is not expected to meet with the Palestinians, who have sought to make Israel-annexed east Jerusalem their capital.



Pence

Funeral held in New York for police reform activist

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The daughter of Eric Garner, whose dying words while in New York police custody became a rallying cry for national police reform, was a warrior for justice, called to the spotlight after her father died. The Rev. Al Sharpton said at her memorial.

The funeral for Erica Garner, 27, was held Monday evening at a Harlem church and was attended by hundreds of mourners, including city officials and the rapper and actor Common. She died Dec. 30 from a heart attack brought on by an asthma attack and leaves behind an infant son and 8-year-old daughter.

Sharpton delivered the eulogy. Before the service, he told The New York Times that Erica Garner's biggest impact was "turning her pain into power. When her father died, an activist was born. You don't just accept injustice, you fight."

Her father died on Staten Island in 2014. He had been arrested on suspicion of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. "I never took him to the ground after he refused to be

handcuffed. He cried out: "I can't breathe!" and then became unconscious and later died. The medical examiner's office said the chokehold contributed to his death.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders sent in a written statement to be read at her service.

"Getting to know Erica was one of the great honors of my campaign. Erica never asked to be an activist, but responded to her own personal tragedy by becoming a fierce fighter for criminal justice reform and an end to police brutality," he said in the statement read aloud by Sharpton.

Common told the Times she took a cross-country flight just to be at the service. Michael Brown Sr., the father of Michael Brown, a teenager who was shot and killed also in 2014 by police in Ferguson, Mo., attended.

There was some drama at the service. Garner's grandmother, Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner and herself a police reform activist, was turned away. Sharpton said it was "family friction" and shouldn't distract from the celebration of Erica Garner's life.

NATION

Source: Mueller's team interested in questioning Trump

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller's team of investigators has expressed interest in speaking with President Donald Trump as part of a probe into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign, a person familiar with the matter said Monday.

The prospect of an interview with the president has come up in recent discussions between Mueller's team and Trump lawyers, but no details have been worked out, including the scope of questions that the president would agree to answer if an interview were to take place, according to the person. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

When or even if an interview would occur was not immediately clear, nor were the terms for the interview or whether Trump's lawyers would seek to narrow the range of questions or topics that prosecutors would cover. Trump's lawyers have previously stated their determination to cooperate with Mueller's requests.

It's not surprising that investigators would ultimately seek to interview the president given his role in several episodes under scrutiny by Mueller. Any interview of Trump would be a likely indication that the investigation was in its final stages — investigators typically look to interview main subjects in their inquiries near the end of a probe.

Mueller for months has led a team of prosecutors and agents investigating whether Russia and Trump's Republican campaign conspired to sway the 2016 election and whether Trump has worked to obstruct an FBI investigation into his aides, including by firing the FBI director, James Comey.

Comey has said that several months before he was dismissed, Trump told him he hoped Comey would end an investigation into his former national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

Mueller's team recently con-

cluded a series of interviews with many current and former White House aides, including former chief of staff Reince Priebus and the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

Four people have been charged so far, including Flynn, who pleaded guilty in December to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the Russian ambassador.

‘We could have done it two ways. We could have been very closed, and it would have taken years. But, you know, it's sort of like, when you've done nothing wrong, let's be open and get it over with.’

President Donald Trump

Trump said. “We could have done it two ways. We could have been very closed, and it would have taken years. But, you know, it's sort of like, when you've done nothing wrong, let's be open and get it over with.”

A White House spokesman pointed to a statement from White House lawyer Ty Cobb saying the White House doesn't publicly discuss its conversations with Mueller but was continuing to cooperate “in order to facilitate the earliest possible resolution.”

“slow-growing prostate cancer” last year. The cancer was removed surgically and found not to have spread beyond the prostate, the aide said.

The news comes as Romney, 70, weighs whether to run for a Utah Senate seat currently occupied by Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch. Hatch announced last week that he would not seek another term next fall.

From The Associated Press



ANDREW HARRIS/AP

President Donald Trump holds up a signed executive order and a memorandum on rural broadband access at the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn., on Monday.

Trump hails tax overhaul as a victory for family farmers

By ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Connecting with rural Americans, President Donald Trump on Monday hailed his tax overhaul as a victory for family farmers and pitched his vision to expand access to broadband internet, a cornerstone of economic development in the nation's heartland.

“Those towers are going to go up, and you're going to have great, great broadband,” Trump told the annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Nashville, Tenn. “Farm country is God's country,” he declared.

Trump became the first president in a quarter-century to address the federation's convention, using the trip to Nashville as a backdrop for a White House report that included proposals to stimulate a segment of the national economy that has lagged behind others. His Southern swing also included a stop in Atlanta for the national college football championship game.

Joined by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and a group of Tennessee lawmakers, Trump said most of the benefits of the tax legislation are “going to working families, small businesses and who — the family farmer.”

The package Trump signed into law last month provides generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans, and more modest reductions for middle- and low-income individuals and families.

The president vastly inflated the value of the package in his speech, citing “a total of \$5.5 trillion in tax cuts. The estimated

‘Oh, are you happy you voted for me. You are so lucky that I gave you that privilege.’

President Donald Trump

value of the tax cuts is actually \$1.5 trillion for families and businesses because of cuts in deductions and the use of other steps to generate offsetting tax revenue.

The president warned against voting for Democrats in November's midterm elections, saying they would undo the tax bill.

“If the Democrats ever had the chance, the first thing they would do is get rid of it and raise up your taxes,” Trump said.

“Oh, are you happy you voted for me,” he added. “You are so lucky that I gave you that privilege.”

Trump also highlighted the doubling of the threshold for the estate tax — earning a standing ovation from the audience — and the ability for companies to immediately write off the full cost of new equipment. He said that “in every decision we make, we are honoring America's proud farming legacy.”

Central to the report is the assessment that the “provider for an equalization among rural America is connectivity; that high-speed internet should remain a high priority for the administration,” said Ray Starling, the special assistant to the president for agriculture, trade and food assistance. The report calls for expediting federal permitting to allow for broadband internet expansion in rural areas and for making it easier for providers to place cell towers on federal lands.

Trump signed an executive order following his speech on

rural broadband aimed at easing the process to put private broadband infrastructure on federal property. The White House described the move, along with a memorandum directing the Interior Department to work on a plan to increase access to their facilities for broadband deployment, as “incremental,” but the start of an effort to make progress on the issue.

White House officials said all work was in the early stages and did not offer an overall timeline. Officials noted the price tag for rural broadband expansion has been estimated at \$80 billion but said the administration had not determined a cost.

The president also took credit for working to roll back the Obama administration's interpretation of the Clean Water Act, which had greatly expanded the list of bodies of water subject to federal regulation. The Farm Bureau ran a public relations campaign against the rule and called it “dangerous and unlawful.”

The Agriculture and Rural Prosperity Task Force report highlights the importance of addressing the opioid crisis, which has disproportionately affected rural communities.

Trump also called on Congress to renew the farm bill this year, adding he supports providing for federal crop insurance. The massive federal legislation funds federal agriculture and food policy, and it offers assistance to rural communities.

Aide: Romney treated for cancer last year

NEW YORK — The Republican presidential nominee in 2012, Mitt Romney, was treated for prostate cancer last year.

That's according to a Romney aide who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the aide was not authorized to discuss a sensitive health issue publicly.

The aide said Monday that Romney was diagnosed with

NATION

SpaceX launch mystery comes amid rivalry

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

The United Launch Alliance, the joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Boeing created more than a decade ago to launch sensitive satellites for the Pentagon and intelligence community, has long been under fire from Elon Musk's SpaceX, the tenacious upstart that plowed its way into the market by waging war inside the Beltway.

For years, Musk proclaimed that SpaceX could save taxpayers millions by offering the Pentagon launches for far less than its chief rival, ULA, meanwhile, maintained that responsibility for national security satellites that cost hundreds of millions and help guide precision bombs and conduct surveillance should not just go to the lowest bidder.

Now with a launch for the National Reconnaissance Office scheduled for Wednesday, ULA is again poised to showcase its record of reliability with more than 100 consecutive launches without a failure. The launch comes as reports indicate that a highly classified satellite launched by SpaceX on Sunday may have suffered a failure once it reached space.

Known only by a codename, Zuma, the satellite was launched



MALCOLM DENEMARK, FLORIDA TODAY/AP

The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Port Canaveral, Fla., on Sunday. There are reports the launch ended in failure.

Sunday evening by SpaceX on its Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The mission is so secretive that it is not known which government agency commissioned the launch, what the satellite cost or what it would do once in orbit.

The launch appeared to go smoothly, and SpaceX cheered a successful liftoff and then the touchdown of its first-stage boost-

er back on land. Musk on Monday tweeted out a long-exposure picture of the launch showing its fiery tail to space — and then the return of the booster.

The Air Force's 45th Space Wing also congratulated the company in a tweet: "What an incredible way to start off 2018 w/the world's 1st successful launch and land of this year!"

As word spread on Monday that

something may have happened to the Zuma satellite, SpaceX maintained that nothing went wrong with its Falcon 9 rocket, saying a review of the data showed it "performed nominally."

Northrop Grumman, which manufactured the Zuma satellite, said in a statement that it could not comment on the mission because it was classified.

If something did go wrong with the mission, it's not clear what happened or who is to blame.

But even if SpaceX's Falcon 9 performed perfectly, it is not a good time for the company, founded by Musk in 2002, to have something happen to such an important payload.

For years, the company has been in a heated battle with ULA over lucrative contracts to launch national security payloads, long seen by Musk as a key source of revenue. SpaceX is also under contract from NASA to fly astronauts to the International Space Station, and it says the first test flights with humans on board could happen as soon as this year.

For nearly a decade, ULA had a monopoly on Pentagon launches. In 2014, SpaceX sued the Air Force, arguing that it should be able to compete for the contracts.

In 2015, the parties settled, and SpaceX was granted the certification that allowed it to bid. Since then, SpaceX has won two of three competitively bid launches.

As they battled with SpaceX, ULA's executives launched a "results over rhetoric" campaign, highlighting the company's long heritage in space.

At the time, ULA's then-CEO accused SpaceX of trying to "cut corners" and "taking a dangerous approach." Under mounting pressure from SpaceX, he was fired, and ULA's new CEO, Tory Bruno, vowed to "literally transform" the company in order to compete with Musk — and he also continued to champion ULA's track record of successful launches.

SpaceX, meanwhile, had two high-profile incidents. In 2015, a rocket blew up while carrying cargo to the space station. Then in 2016, another rocket exploded while being fueled ahead of an engine test. No one was hurt in either explosion.

In both cases, the company was grounded while it investigated the cause of those problems. As of now, it appears SpaceX is going to keep moving ahead with its launch manifest, a sign that it is confident in its rocket's performance.

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STARS AND STRIPES

NATION

US hits record cost for natural disasters in 2017

Hurricane, wildfire damage tallies \$306B

By SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With three strong hurricanes, wildfires, hail, flooding, tornadoes and drought, the United States tallied a record high bill last year for weather disasters: \$306 billion.

The U.S. had 16 disasters last year with damage exceeding \$1 billion, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Monday. That ties 2011 for the number of billion-dollar disasters, but the total cost blew past the previous record of \$215 billion in 2005.

Costs are adjusted for inflation, and NOAA keeps track of billion-dollar weather disasters going back to 1980.

Three of the five most expensive hurricanes in U.S. history hit last year.

Hurricane Harvey, which caused massive flooding in Texas, cost \$125 billion, second only to 2005's Katrina, while Maria's damage in Puerto Rico cost \$90 billion, ranking third, NOAA said. Irma was \$50 billion, mainly in Florida, for the fifth-most expensive hurricane.

Western wildfires fanned by heat racked up \$18 billion in damage, triple the U.S. wildfire record, according to NOAA.

Besides Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, California, Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi,

Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina all had more than \$1 billion in damage from the 16 weather disasters in 2017.

"While we have to be careful about knee-jerk cause-effect discussions, [many scientific studies] show that some of today's extremes have climate change fingerprints on them," said University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd, a past president of the American Meteorological Society.

NOAA announced its figures at the society's annual conference in Austin, Texas.

The U.S. averages six of the billion-dollar weather disasters each year, costing a bit more than \$40 billion annually.

The increase in billion-dollar weather disasters is likely a combination of more flooding, heat and storm surge from climate change along with other non-climate changes, such as where buildings are put, where people move and how valuable their property is, said Deke Arndt, NOAA's climate monitoring chief.

The weather agency also said that 2017 was the third-hottest year in U.S. records for the Lower 48 states with an annual temperature of 54.6 degrees — 2.6 degrees warmer than the 20th-century average. Only 2012 and 2016 were warmer. The five warmest years for the Lower 48 states have all happened since 2006.



ERIC RISBERG/AP

A firetruck drives through the wildfire-damaged Coffey Park neighborhood as rainwater pools where a home once stood Monday in Santa Rosa, Calif. Rains from the storm sparked mudslides in some areas.

At least 5 dead as winter storm triggers mudslides in California

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A fire official said five people have been killed by mudslides that swept Southern California homes from their foundations as a powerful storm drenched recent wildfire burn areas.

Santa Barbara County Fire Department Capt. Dave Zaniboni said the bodies were found in mud and debris during rescue operations Tuesday in Montecito northwest of Los Angeles.

Zaniboni says "multiple" homes were destroyed and residents are unaccounted for in neighborhoods below hillsides scarred by recent fires.

There were reports of injuries, but Santa Barbara County spokeswoman Amber Anderson didn't immediately know how many or the extent. She said "multiple" residents had been rescued and more were calling for help. Thousands were without power. Evacuation orders were issued Monday over fears of mudslides in those foothill neighborhoods where the state's largest-ever fire raged last month.

Water and debris in lanes brought coastal U.S. 101 to a standstill, and traffic accidents on rain-slicked roadways across the region slowed the morning

commute to a crawl.

The first significant storm of the season soaked much of the state. Record-breaking rain fell on the San Francisco Bay region before the storm largely passed overnight, leaving diminishing showers there before dawn Tuesday. Stormy weather continued to the east in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada.

Downtown San Francisco had a record 3.15 inches of rain on Monday, smashing the old mark of 2.36 inches set in 1872 and making it the city's 16th-wettest day since 1849, the National Weather Service said.

A winter weather advisory was in place for mountain areas, where officials warned motorists to prepare for difficult travel conditions, including gusty winds, low visibility and snow-covered roads.

A yearslong drought eased in the state last spring, but Northern California had a dry start to winter and hardly any measurable rain fell in the south over the past six months. The extremely dry conditions and high winds last year led to some of the most destructive blazes on both ends of the state.

JFK airport tries to catch up; will probe weekend problems

By DEEPTI HAJELA
AND JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Frazzled travelers snoozed on floors, and dozens of suitcases sat unclaimed as a welter of wintry problems — from a snowstorm to a burst water pipe — extended flight delays at John F. Kennedy Airport into a fourth day Monday. The agency running the airport vowed to investigate the fiasco.

Andrea Collavo and his girlfriend were supposed to fly home to Italy on Friday after a vacation in the U.S. but still were trying to get into the air Monday.

They had spent days shuttling back and forth to hotels, waiting in a terminal, calling airlines and finally boarding a plane Sunday only to have it spend two hours on the tarmac, and then turn back because of an equipment problem, a



RICHARD DREW/AP

Passengers at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport Terminal 4 wait for flights Monday after a water pipe break added to the weather-related delays at the airport.

frustrated Collavo said.

"I can understand. Yeah, it's a mess because of the weather. But it seems that they're not very well

organized," he said. "There's a big lack of information."

More than 115 flights of the day's roughly 600 were canceled,

and about 100 were delayed at one of the nation's busiest airports. And the weather brought a bit more freezing rain, sleet and snow Monday night.

"What happened over the weekend was a completely unacceptable performance," said Rick Cotton, executive director of Kennedy Airport's owner, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He pledged to bring in outside experts and investigators to dissect the breakdowns and improve communication and contingency plans.

"We intend to identify what went wrong, why it went wrong ... and we intend to fix it," Cotton said.

Some passengers tried to get hold of their luggage. At points, scores of suitcases were lined up in cordoned-off areas without their owners. Cotton said the Port Authority had told airlines and

the companies that run terminals to get bags and passengers back together fast.

The trouble began when a winter storm blasted New York and snarled air travel Thursday.

As the skies cleared, unusually cold weather shot in, creating what the airport operating agency called a cascade of problems over the weekend.

Frozen equipment, luggage-handling problems and staff shortages slowed down operations on the ground.

Then, around 2 p.m. Sunday, a water pipe broke. About 3 inches of water gushed onto the floor of Terminal 4, suspending its international flight arrivals for a few hours.

Cotton blamed the weekend of woes primarily on poor communication between international airlines and terminal operating companies.

NATION

Rancher Bundy defiant as Nev. case tossed

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Nevada rancher accused of leading an armed standoff that stopped federal agents from rounding up his cattle in 2014 walked out of a courthouse in Las Vegas a free and defiant man Monday, declaring that his fight against U.S. authority is not over.

Cliven Bundy emerged to supporters' cheers, while environmental and conservation advocates worried that the dismissal of his charges would bolster "violent and racist anti-government" followers who aim to erode established parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands controlled by U.S. officials.

"We're not done with this," Bundy, 71, declared in his first minutes of freedom since his arrest in February 2016.

The family patriarch and states' rights figure said he had been held as a political prisoner for 700 days and promised that if U.S. Bureau of Land Management agents come again to seize his cattle over unpaid grazing fees, they will encounter "the very same thing as last time."

The stunning collapse of the federal criminal case against Cliven Bundy and his sons Ryan and Ammon marked a new low for government lawyers whose work is now under review by the Trump administration. Prosecutors have faced several losses in Oregon and Nevada arising from armed Bundy standoffs, and federal control of vast stretches of land in the West.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions launched an investigation into the Nevada case last month after Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro declared a mistrial. On Monday, she dismissed outright all 15 counts against Bundy, his sons and Montana militia leader Ryan Payne.

"Of course that the universal sense

of justice has been violated," Navarro said as audible gasps and sobs erupted in a court gallery crammed with Bundy supporters.

It comes after prosecutors failed to gain full convictions in two trials against six other defendants who acknowledged carrying assault-style weapons during the April 2014 confrontation outside Bunkerville, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Jurors in Portland, Ore., also acquitted Ryan and Ammon Bundy more than a year ago of taking over a federal wildlife refuge in 2016 and calling for the U.S. government to turn over public land to local control.

The judge ended the latest case by ripping government prosecutors for "intentional abdication of ... responsibility," "flagrant misconduct" and "substantial prejudice." Navarro found "deliberate attempts to mislead and distort the truth" and blamed FBI agents for "reckless disregard" of requirements to turn over evidence relating to government snipers and cameras that monitored the Bundy homestead.

The defense also should have been given records of government threat assessments that concluded the Bundys would probably protest but not become violent if agents enforcing court orders began rounding up their cattle, the judge said.

Navarro set a Feb. 26 trial date for four defendants still awaiting trial, including two more Bundy sons, Mel and David.

Nevada's acting U.S. attorney, Dayle Ellison, released a one-sentence statement saying she will make a determination about whether to challenge the ruling before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ian Bartrum, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas, law professor who has written about the Bundy case and federal land policy, called the complete dismissal a "pretty incredible result" for the family and its followers.

"In some ways, it vindicates what they're



K.M. CANNON, LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL/AP

Rancher Cliven Bundy walks out of federal court with his wife, Carol, on Monday in Las Vegas after a judge dismissed criminal charges against him and two of his sons.

claiming," Bartrum said of people who believe the government overreached.

Kieran Suckling, with the Center for Biological Diversity, which fought for decades to protect endangered desert tortises on rangeland where Bundy cows graze, called the prospect of a wider audience for the

states' rights figure cause for concern.

"The Bundys rallied a militia to mount an armed insurrection against the government," Suckling said. "The failure of this case will only embolden this violent and racist anti-government movement that wants to take over our public lands."

Ky. lawmaker resigns post over harassment settlement

BY ADAM BEAM AND BRUCE SCHREINER
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky's Republican House speaker resigned his leadership post, declaring he did not want the secret sexual harassment settlement he signed to be a distraction from the chamber's legislative work.

But moments into his announcement Monday, he said the state's Republican governor, the speaker's friend, told him from the "deepest pits of Hell" and vowed to expose those he says orchestrated his demise, "regardless of who they are and the position they hold."

While Jeff Hoover will no longer lead the House of Representatives, he still has a seat in the chamber's back row, where he plans to be a vocal member of the Republican majority.

Meanwhile, eight of his Republican colleagues have filed formal disciplinary charges against him and have asked a special committee to recommend the House remove him from office.

"Of course (it will be a distraction.) How could it not be?" asked Republican Rep. Phil Moffett, one of the GOP members who signed the charges against Hoover. "It's only logical to say once this issue is behind us completely, it will not be a distraction anymore."

Kentucky lawmakers have plenty of work to do. They will fill a nearly \$1 billion budget hole that could require massive

spending cuts since the conservative body is averse to tax increases. They have to find a solution for a public pension system that is one of the worst-funded retirement plans in the country. And they have to repair a broken leadership structure that has left the House divided.

"I will not deny that the dazzlement of scandals and rumors and drama pulls focus from our primary tasks," GOP state Rep. Jill York said. "But as far as knocking anyone off, if they came down here to do it, I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing. I'm filing bills."

With his wife watching from the balcony, Hoover acknowledged to colleagues that he sent inappropriate but consensual text messages to a woman who once worked for the House Republican Caucus. Those text messages were sent in response to disciplinary charges filed against him in the House, included a request for the woman to send photos of herself wearing a "black lace g string." Hoover said his behavior was not "unwelcome" by the woman, but he agreed to pay her an undisclosed financial settlement to keep the matter secret. Hoover's letter claiming sexual harassment.

Hoover and others have refused to discuss details of the settlement, citing a confidentiality clause. The Associated Press has not identified the woman because she says she is a victim of sexual misconduct. Her attorney declined to comment.

"Let me be clear. I made a mistake," Hoover said. "I did not do anything illegal.



MICHAEL REEVES/AP

Republican Speaker of Kentucky's House of Representatives Jeff Hoover resigned from his leadership position Monday.

I did not do anything that was unethical. I did not do anything that was unwelcome or unwanted. And I did not engage in sexual harassment."

Hoover had announced he would resign as speaker in November, just days after the Courier Journal exposed the secret settlement signed by him and three other Republican lawmakers. But when the House convened Monday to begin the 2018 legislative session, he temporarily ceded power to Speaker Pro Tem David Osborne, sowing confusion about who was in charge.

Hoover's resignation was made on the condition "if accepted by the members of the House." Osborne quickly ruled the resignation had been accepted and ordered it entered into the House journal.

He said a vote would only be required if a House member objected, and none did.

Palin's son pleads not guilty to felony

Associated Press

PALMER, Alaska — Sarah Palin's oldest son pleaded not guilty Monday to a felony charge in the case accusing him of assaulting his father at the family's Alaska home last month.

Track Palin's lawyer entered the plea to a burglary charge on his behalf at his arraignment. The judge set Palin's trial for the week of Feb. 26.

Palin, 28, was arrested in December after Sarah Palin, the 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee and a former Alaska governor, told authorities her son was on some kind of medication and "freaking out." A police affidavit said father Todd Palin was bleeding from cuts on his head. He told police the dispute began when his son called to pick up his truck from the Palins' home in Wasilla.

Track Palin last month also pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor assault and criminal mischief. He is out on bail with electronic monitoring.

According to the affidavit, Todd Palin said he told Track Palin not to come to the house but his son said he would come to beat him up. Todd Palin told police he got his pistol "to protect his family." Track Palin told police he broke a window, disarmed Todd and put him on the ground.

In 2016, Track Palin was suspected of punching his girlfriend, who then became concerned that he was going to shoot himself with a rifle, court documents said.

Track Palin served in Iraq for a year in 2008 while in the Army.

NATION

Parents fight to record school day of disabled child

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

BOSTON — A Maine teen with autism and a rare neurological syndrome that affects his speaking ability cannot talk to his parents about his school day the same way other students can. So his family is fighting for the right for him to carry an audio recording device to ensure he's being treated properly when they aren't watching.

The novel case began Monday in the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, which hears most New England cases, pits the student's parents against his southern Maine school district, which says the recording device would infringe on other students' privacy rights.

His parents say they need a glimpse into his day so they can better advocate for him at school. They fear isn't always telling the whole story.

"Most kids can come home and tell their parents what happened at school or what the teacher had done or not done. He can't do that," said Matthew Pollack, the father of Ben, 18.

The teen, who is nonverbal, uses a device at school and at home that allows him to answer some questions or request things, but he cannot discuss events from his day, his father said.

The parents argue that laws prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities require the district to allow him to record his school day. Because their son largely cannot communicate with them, they say he cannot benefit from his education the same way nondisabled students can.

The parents, who are both lawyers, first pushed for the recording device in 2012 after the boy was unusually upset one day. They suspected something happened at school but got no explanation from administrators, they said. The student's mother told the district they would start recording his days to "have some semblance of peace that he is safe at school."

The school told the couple the recorder would violate a ban on students using privately owned electronic devices. Since then, two administrative hearing officers, a lower court judge and a jury have all rejected the family's request.

The plaintiffs have tried a number of legal theories, one of which is to attach a recording device to the child, and they have lost at every round and on every theory," said Daniel Nuzzi, an attorney for Regional School Unit 75, which includes Ben Pollack's school in Topsham.

Attorneys for the district say teachers and administrators have

gone above and beyond to provide the parents with information about the student, who they say loves school. A hearing officer concluded last year there is "simply no demonstrable benefit" to allowing the parents to record his day and that it would actually be "disruptive and detrimental" to his education.

In other states, parents of special-education students have secretly placed audio recorders on their children to expose abuse, which has led to firings or settlements.

And Texas recently began requiring school districts to install cameras in certain special-education classrooms.

But opponents say such actions raise serious privacy concerns.

If parents can assert a right to "send always-on listening device to school with their children, what would this mean for students who wished to report abuse or neglect at home to a school counselor, or for students who are LGBT?"

Matthew Pollack, father of Ben

disabilities who asked Samantha Crane, of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

Arlene Kanter, director of Syracuse University College of Law's Disability Law and Policy Program, said she believes the family has a strong case.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires schools make accommodations unless doing so would pose an undue burden or fundamentally alter their program. The family here is not asking, for example, the school to spend extra money on him to another class, Kanter said.

"From what I've seen, there wasn't any showing that it was an undue burden," Kanter said.

A decision in favor of the parents could affect other children in his situation, which Pollack said is part of the reason why he and his wife have been fighting this case for so long.

"It has bothered us that the district's position has been that we don't necessarily have a right to know what happens to our son in school unless they decide it's appropriate for us to know," Pollack said. "That's very disturbing."



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SELL/Courtesy of the Institute for Energy

Saint Francis University's tiny classroom is 160 square feet.

Pennsylvania university thinks big in small spaces with tiny classroom

By RUSS O'REILLY
The (Allentown, Pa.) Mirror

LORETTA, Pa. — Saint Francis University in Loretta, Pa., is digging into the tiny house trend as part of its Energy Technology and Policy program.

The typical American home is about 2,600 square feet, whereas the typical small or tiny house is between 100 and 400 square feet.

Saint Francis' tiny classroom, built in a shell purchased from 84 Lumber, is 160 square feet.

"The idea is to utilize the tiny house model to educate students and the community about renewable energy, efficient living and producing a smaller environmental footprint," said Allison Rohrs, director of the Institute of Energy at Saint Francis.

The tiny house is officially parked on campus with support from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund. It's powered by six 280-watt solar panels that work even on rainy days. It also can be electrically charged.

The tiny house consumes between 200 and 300 kilowatt-hours per month, compared with a typical home that uses between 1,000 and 1,500 kilowatt-hours, Rohrs said.

It's heated by a biomass wood stove that uses wood pellets for fuel. It relies on energy sources that are replenishable rather than fossil fuels, Rohrs said.

The Saint Francis University Institute for Energy's new tiny classroom serves as an educational resource for students on campus and surrounding communities. The house is on wheels, so it can be transported by a pickup truck.

To help support the unit in its travels to schools and events throughout the state, the Institute for Energy was recently awarded



The classroom is on wheels so it can be transported by truck.

a \$20,000 grant from Constellation Energy. SFU was one of only 18 projects nationwide to receive a grant.

The tiny house trend is a growing movement that has inspired six national TV shows, according to The Associated Press. The tiny homes have been promoted as the solution to all kinds of housing needs — shelter for the homeless, an affordable option for expensive big cities and simplicity for people who want to declutter their lives, the AP has reported.

84 Lumber, in Cresson, Pa., started selling shells for tiny homes two years ago, company tiny homes sales coordinator Amanda Schmeltzer said.

Schmeltzer said the company has sold more than 20 shells to people in Pennsylvania, California, New York and Maryland.

"She said people use them as 'Airbnbs' and as backyard homes for their elderly parents.

The current interest in small houses follows a steady growth in the median size of homes, from 1,200 square feet in the 1940s to about 1,860 square feet in this

decade.

As home sizes spiraled up, tiny-house pioneers in the 1990s began promoting the austerity and frugality of spaces smaller than most garages.

The idea captivated millions of Americans, even those who remain in more spacious accommodations, the AP reported.

Penn State University also is exploring the trend.

The Penn State tiny home projects offer students of many disciplines the chance to gain hands-on experience with material reuse, advanced design and prefabrication and solar energy systems, said David Riley, professor of the Department of Architectural Engineering.

"Tiny homes address design challenges that are important in many facets of buildings. They require you to essentialize space and be creative so you can reduce size, cost and expense," Riley said. "They also enable us to work with superefficient energy and water systems, which are critically important in all buildings."

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in

Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2015 Columbia Journalism School Dart Awards

Feature Story Reporting
(Daily Circulation 1,500,000)
Finalist: Martin Kuz: "Army Sgt. Isaac Sims left the war in Iraq, but it didn't leave him"

2014 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Feature Story Reporting

(Daily Circulation 1,500,000)
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Death shapes life for teens that prepare bodies of fallen troops for final flight home"

2014 VFW News Media Award

For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest

Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2011 Military Photographer of the Year

Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMott

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award

Breaking News Photography
(Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism

Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Overseas coverage
(< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabirow

2010 National Headliner Awards

First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism

George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charles Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Overseas coverage
(< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Overseas coverage
(< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Lewis Photography; Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award

Ground Truth Hero

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award

First Amendment, Finalist

WORD

Italy, Germany seize \$60M in mafia assets

ROME — Police in Italy and Germany seized \$60 million in mafia assets Tuesday and arrested more than 160 people, accusing them of running a huge mob-controlled commercial and political empire involving everything from bread and wine sales to funeral services, migrant housing and garbage recycling.

Prosecutors in southern Italy said the 'ndrangheta's Piaro-Marincola clan had its hand in just about every commercial enterprise in the Calabrian town of Ciro and nearby areas, and that its grip extended throughout Italy and into Germany to launder its profits.

"They controlled all the economic activity in entire towns," Prosecutor Nicola Gratteri told a press conference.

200 hurt in train crash outside Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG — A train collision on the outskirts of South Africa's commercial hub, Johannesburg, left more than 200 people injured, emergency responders said Tuesday morning. It was the second train crash in the area within a week.

At least 226 people were taken to hospitals, "but most with minor injuries," said Nana Radebe, spokeswoman for the city's emergency management service.

No one died in the crash at the Gekoms commuter train station, emergency response group ER24 said in a statement.

Fire at French kosher market likely arson

PARIS — A fire broke out Tuesday at a kosher market south of Paris that was vandalized with anti-Semitic graffiti last week, French officials said.

No one was reported injured, but the fire damaged much of the Promo & Stock store.

Authorities believe the fire in the suburb of Creteil was a criminal act because the store's protective shutters had been forced open, Antoine Besme, of the regional prosecutor's office, told The Associated Press.

He said a preliminary investigation was opened, and authorities were checking to see if the fire is linked to last week's vandalism.

Polish leader shuffles Cabinet ahead of visit

WARSAW, Poland — Poland's new prime minister has fired a number of ministers from his Cabinet, ending the controversial ministers of foreign affairs, defense and environment, before heading off to Brussels for talks with top European Union officials.

Mateusz Morawiecki, who became prime minister in December, is conducting the reshuffle just before he attempts to avert possible EU sanctions on Poland. EU leaders have raised a series of concerns over the Polish government's reform of the justice system and over logging in an old forest.

From The Associated Press

13K tourists stranded at Swiss resort

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA — Unusually heavy snowfall and a high risk of Alpine avalanches stranded some 13,000 tourists Tuesday in the Swiss resort of Zermatt, at the base of the famed Matterhorn mountain.

With nearby roads, trains, cable cars, ski slopes and hiking trails into the town closed, Swiss authorities deployed helicopters to ferry some tourists to a nearby village to escape the snowbound Alpine valley.

A police official in Zermatt, a tourist magnet for backpackers and millionaires alike, said the helicopter journey to the village of Täsch takes about three minutes.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter, said the so-called air bridge can transport about 100 people an hour, conditions permitting.

Only tourists who requested the air bridge were being ferried out, the official said, insisting that

it was not an official evacuation.

Swiss state-backed broadcaster SRF showed images of several people wheeling their luggage out to three helicopters with their blades whirring atop an icy plateau.

Bulldozers were plowing through the snowdrifts in Zermatt so that streets could be salted. One local hotelier said authorities were setting off controlled explosions to help clear away the piled-up snow that had coated roads and trails.

Janine Imesch, of the Zermatt tourism office, said power has been restored after a temporary outage. She said no people were at risk because authorities had shut down access to the nearby ski slopes and hiking trails a day earlier.

"There is nothing to panic about. Everything is fine," she said Tuesday by phone. "Only the ski areas are closed. In the village, the atmosphere is relaxed."

Romy Biner, the head of the Zermatt town council, told SRF the airlift was for guests who urgently needed to leave and to



Tourists wait in line at the heliport of Air Zermatt for a flight by airlift into the valley to Larion, in Zermatt, Switzerland, on Tuesday.

DOMINIC STEINMANN, KEYSTONE/AP

bring in supplies. She said the town hadn't seen so much snow for several years. "It surprised us a bit this year, and we're trying to make the best of it," Biner said.

Switzerland's WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research said Monday afternoon that at least 31.5 inches of snow had been dumped on the Zermatt area over

the last 24 hours, raising the avalanche risk to a maximum level of 5 on an avalanche-warning scale.

The intense snowfall in the Zermatt and Saas valleys was part of a broader weather pattern that was causing mudslides and intensifying the avalanche risk across a broad swath of southwestern Switzerland.

About 3,700 arrested amid protests, unrest in Iran

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iranian security forces arrested some 3,700 people during widespread protests and unrest over the past two weeks, a lawmaker said Tuesday, offering a far higher number than authorities previously released.

The demonstrations, which began Dec. 28 over economic grievances, quickly spread across the country to become the largest

seen in Iran since the disputed 2009 presidential election. Some protesters called for the overthrow of the government, and at least 21 people were killed in clashes.

Human rights activists outside of Iran told The Associated Press they weren't surprised by the figure, as authorities also allegedly carried out so-called "preventative arrests" of students not involved in the protests. Some 4,000 arrests followed the 2009 protests.

Activists also said they had concerns about Iran's prisons

and jails being overcrowded and dangerous, pointing to allegations of torture, abuse and deaths that followed the mass arrests of 2009. The New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran says at least three detainees arrested in the recent protests have already died in custody.

"Given the systematic rape and torture of detainees in 2009 in very overcrowded and inhumane conditions, we are extremely worried about the fate of these thousands of detainees and the lack of

information and access by their families and lawyers," said Hadi Ghaemi, the executive director of the center. "It is a very troubling situation."

Mahmoud Sadeghi, a reformist lawmaker from Tehran, offered the new figures for those arrested in a report carried Tuesday by Parliament's official news website. Authorities previously spoke of hundreds of arrests in Tehran, while other provinces offered only piecemeal figures, if any at all.

Defiant Bosnian Serbs celebrate banned 'statehood' holiday

By SABINA NIKSIC
Associated Press

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnian Serbs celebrated a banned "statehood" holiday Tuesday in stubborn defiance of the West and their non-Serb compatriots, but with tacit backing from Russia.

A handful of international guests attended the celebration in Banja Luka, the largest city in the Serb-run part of Bosnia, Republika Srpska. They included Serbia's interior and defense ministers, as well as Anatoly Bilinov, president of Georgia's breakaway province of South Ossetia.

The guests flanked Bosnian Serb nationalist leader Milorad Dodik at a podium to watch a parade by police officers armed with automatic weapons, Bosnian War veterans and members of sports clubs and rescue services. Closing the procession were Serb members of the Night Wolves, a Russian motorcycle club that staunchly supports President Vladimir Putin.

The Jan. 9 holiday commemorates the date in 1992 when Bos-



Members of the police forces of the Republika Srpska march during a parade marking the 26th anniversary of the republic in the Bosnian town of Banja Luka on Tuesday.

RADIVOJE PAVICIC/AP

nian Serbs declared the creation of an exclusively Serb state in multi-ethnic Bosnia. Backed by Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic,

the act ignited the country's fratricidal 1992-95 war.

After the war, which claimed 100,000 lives and left 2.2 million

people displaced, Republika Srpska became a semi-autonomous region of Bosnia. Non-Serbs who returned to their homes there view the holiday as a celebration of the expulsions and violence they suffered.

Addressing several thousand people who lined the street cheering Tuesday's parade, Dodik said Serbs had "two states" — Republika Srpska and Serbia — which would always support each other and "wish to become one."

Dodik, who has repeatedly stated that the Serbs' long-term goal is secession from the rest of Bosnia, often boasts of Russia's support for his hard-line policies and efforts to keep Bosnia from establishing closer ties with the West.

Bosnia's constitutional court banned the Serb statehood holiday in 2015, but Bosnian Serbs have refused to accept the ruling. Their defiance led the United States to impose sanctions on Dodik last year, while European diplomats and European Union representatives in Bosnia have stopped meeting with him.

WORLD

Tiny tomato cultivated by Israeli firm

By AUDREY HOROWITZ
Associated Press

MOSHAV IDAN, Israel — They say bigger is better, but in the succulent world of cherry tomatoes, one Israeli company is going smaller than ever before.

The “drop tomato” is about the size of a blueberry, and the Kedma company in the country's southern Arava desert says it is the smallest one ever cultivated in Israel, perhaps even in the world. It's a point of pride in a country known for its agricultural innovation, where fruits and vegetables are taken seriously and where several strands of the cherry tomato were first invented.

“The idea is that it is comfortable,” said Ariel Kidron, a Kedma grower. “You can throw it in a salad; you don't need to cut it. It just explodes in your mouth.”

The seed, originally developed in Holland, was modified to match the arid growing conditions in southern Israel. Rami Golan, of the Central and Northern Arava Research and Development Center, who participated in the project, said it was definitely the smallest ever to be grown in Israel — where tomatoes are incredibly popular.

The tiny tomato, smaller than a 1-shekel Israeli coin, is offered in red and yellow varieties and will be presented to the public at a three-day international agricultural fair in Israel later this month.

Early indications are it could be a big hit. Shaul Ben Aderet, a well-known Israeli chef who owns three restaurants, including Tel Aviv's “Blue Rooster,” got some early samples and says the new strand is packed with flavor and will spawn an infinite number of new recipes. He offered it sizzled in a pan, baked into focaccia bread and as a straight-up snack.

“It's very simple, it's clean, it's nice, it's sexy,” he said. In a blind taste test alongside two sweets, he said, “they would say the tomato is a candy, that's for sure.”



PHOTOS BY ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

Small yellow and red “drop tomatoes” are spawning new recipes at a restaurant in Tel Aviv, Israel.



Left: Israeli chef Shaul Ben Aderet holds a drop tomato and an Israeli shekel at one of his restaurants in Tel Aviv. Right: Aderet holds a dish he cooked that includes the little tomatoes.

Gays in Australia marry at midnight

By ROD MCGUIRK
Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Same-sex couples married in midnight ceremonies across Australia on Tuesday after the country's last legal impediment to gay marriage expired.

Marriage equality became law on Dec. 9 with overwhelming support in Parliament, but Australia's requirement that all couples give a month's notice for weddings made Tuesday the first possible date for gay marriages.

Athletes Craig Burns and Luke Sullivan married at a midnight ceremony near the east coast city of Tweed Heads.

“It's another way to show your love and appreciation of your partner in front of the people in your life,” said Burns, 29, a sprinter who will compete in the Commonwealth Games in Australia's Gold Coast in April.

In Newcastle, north of Sydney, Rebecca Hickson, 32, married her partner of nine years, Sarah Turnbull, 34. Hickson described the divisive buildup to a gay marriage ballot preceding Parliament's vote as “a horrible time.” She said the couple wanted to be part of history by becoming one of the first lesbian couples to marry in Australia.

Lainey Carmichael, 51, and Roz Kitschke, 46, married shortly after dawn before 65 guests at their home in the town of Franklin, in the island state of Tasmania.

The early ceremony was mainly to avoid the summer heat, Kitschke said. “New day, new era — and we don't like the heat that much,” she said.

Wedding guest Rodney Croomie, a longtime marriage equality advocate and spokesperson for Tasmanians United for Marriage Equality, said, “This morning's wedding marked the start of a new chapter in the lives of the two brides, but also a new chapter in the life of the nation.”

“Today, we are a more equal and inclusive country that treats all loving, committed couples the same,” Croomie said in a statement.

The Australian Parliament overwhelmingly voted for same-sex marriage after a nationwide postal survey found that 62 percent of respondents wanted marriage equality.

The one-month waiting period was waived for some couples who wed in recent weeks. Those exceptional circumstances included a partner's terminal illness and overseas-based relatives booking flights to Australia before the official start date for the new law was known.

Salvadorans fear their country not prepared for returnees

By MARCOS ALEMAN
Associated Press

SANTA TECLA, El Salvador — Being deported to an El Salvador he hadn't seen in more than three decades was a trauma Hugo Castro, 51, recalls clearly.

Castro said Monday that his country must begin preparing to receive the nearly 200,000 Salvadorans who may have to return following the Trump administration's decision to lift their temporary protected status next year. “The main problem for deportees is that they're made invisible. They're rejected. There's no work. They don't help us,” said Castro, who was deported from the U.S. in 2015.

The U.S. announcement brought fears that a major source of income for this poor Central

American nation will be cut off and that families could be separated. But there was also a hint of optimism that Salvadorans with many years of experience in the U.S. could bring expertise and investment to spur the economy.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said Salvadorans who have stayed in the U.S. with temporary protected status — only a fraction of the estimated 2 million Salvadorans living there — would have to leave by Sept. 9, 2019, unless Congress came up with a solution allowing them to stay.

The temporary protected status program has been offered to citizens from a number of countries fleeing natural disasters or other instability.

The affected Salvadorans received the status after earth-

quakes in 2001 killed more than 1,000 people. Thousands more who arrived in the United States in recent years fleeing gang violence were not eligible.

Castro went to the United States as a teenager to study at a college in Atlanta. During his junior year, his family back home lost nearly everything when the bank seized their coffee operation. Dropping out, he worked at a country club and a bookstore and became manager of a Mexican restaurant. Then, a run-in with police led to more than two years in immigration detention as he unsuccessfully fought deportation after living in the U.S. for three decades.

His first three months back in El Salvador were the worst, he said. He suffered from depression and didn't want to leave his moth-

er's home. People told him a 49-year-old man should not depend on his mother to support him, so he started looking for work.

“I went everywhere, to restaurants. I told them I had a lot of experience and that I spoke English, but they rejected me,” he said.

Eight months after arriving, Castro finally found work at the Salvadoran Immigrant Institute. The nonprofit group recognized the value of Castro's bilingualism and the experience he had gained through the deportation process, and it put him to work helping other deportees reintegrate into society. Castro said programs like his are very limited and more needs to be done for returnees.

“The government has to get ready, partner with businesses, with all of society, the nonprofits, and create assistance programs,” he said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Tourist attraction aims for historic designation

KS WEST MINERAL — Preservationists and volunteers are working to get a giant electric shovel in Kansas that weighs 5,500 tons on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Joplin Globe reported that volunteers managed to get the orange-and-black shovel, called Big Brutus, on the Register of Historic Kansas Places in November. The board of directors of Big Brutus Inc. will be notified about the national nomination this month or next.

Big Brutus stands at 160 feet tall and operated from 1963 to 1974 in the once booming mining town of West Mineral. Volunteers said the landmark attracts more than 30,000 visitors per year.

State court to weigh legality of noose display

VA RICHMOND — The Virginia Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments this week over whether a man broke the law when he hung a black-faced dummy in his front yard.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported lawyers for Jack Eugene Turner, of Rocky Mount, will argue before the court Wednesday.

Turner was convicted in 2015 of violating a state law that prohibits hanging a noose to intimidate. Turner is white. He was upset at some black neighbors.

Turner got six months in jail. He argues his free speech rights were violated and that state law only bars displays of nooses on public land, not private property.

The Virginia Court of Appeals upheld Turner's conviction in 2016.

Codex rendered legible through X-ray scanning

NY NEW YORK — An ancient Coptic codex written sometime between 400 and 600 A.D. and housed in a New York City library is now legible thanks to state-of-the-art X-ray scanning.

The severely scorched early book, or codex, has been owned by the Morgan Library and Museum in New York since 1962, but has remained unopened for fear of destroying it. The New York Times reported the brittle parchment was singled together sometime in the past, rendering it unreadable through normal means.

Computer scientist W. Brent Seals has developed software that models the surface of a contorted piece of parchment through X-ray data and then assigns letters to their correct positioning. The scans were completed in December, and the museum team hopes to start producing readable pages later this month.

Find may be flower from Lincoln's casket

IL LOCKPORT — A northern Illinois historian has found what appears to be a

THE CENSUS

22

The amount in tons of used tires removed from two Illinois communities. Officials with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency collected the tires from public and abandoned properties in Hopkins Park and Penthouse Township. A similar action has recycled nearly 600 tons of used tires from five counties in northern Illinois. According to officials, old tires can attract disease-carrying insects, especially mosquitoes. The tires are disposed of at a commercial used tire processing facility, where some are revamped and resold. Others are recycled.



J. David Ake/AP

Washington winter

The Jefferson Memorial is reflected in the frozen surface of the Tidal Basin at daybreak in Washington on Monday. The Tidal Basin, famous for the cherry trees that surround it, was a sheet of ice after several days of bitter cold weather in the nation's capital.

pressed flower from Abraham Lincoln's casket.

Will County Historical Society President Sandy Vasko told The Daily Southtown she found it in a box belonging to the family of James Elwood, a Civil War soldier and former mayor of Joliet, which is outside Chicago.

Vasko found a handwritten note describing the flower as from the 16th president's casket when "the remains were lying in State ... in Washington, D.C. April 20, 1865." James Cornelius, the Lincoln curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, confirmed the flower appeared the "real deal."

Crews rescue man lost on Lake Winnebago

WI FOND DU LAC — Authorities rescued a man after he wandered out on Lake Winnebago in east-central Wisconsin.

According to the Fond Du Lac County Sheriff's Office, the 42-year-old man called for help early Sunday, saying he was lost on the lake. First responders arrived within minutes and found the man about a quarter-mile off shore.

Officials said the man had been drinking and was not wearing enough clothing for the cold weather. He was taken to a hospital to be treated for exposure.

Sea turtles stunned by unusual cold rescued

FL CAPE CANAVERAL — Rescuers are bringing cold-stunned sea turtles in Florida to warmer waters.

Young turtles often live in the shallow waters where waters get colder faster while bigger turtles swim into warmer water in the Gulf. When water temperatures fall below 50 degrees, the turtles can become stunned. They appear comatose, and it's hard to determine if they're alive or dead.

Some sea turtles are warming up in rehabilitation pools at Canaveral National Seashore. Most will be tagged and released as soon as weather conditions allow.

City may ban pet store sales of cats and dogs

MD BALTIMORE — A statewide push to ban the sale of cats and dogs at pet stores may find a foothold in

Baltimore.

The Baltimore Sun reported a measure seeking the ban would be introduced at Monday's meeting of the Baltimore City Council.

Humane Society of the United States chapter Director Emily Hovernale doesn't believe pet stores adhere to the current state law prohibiting the sale of puppy mill-bred animals. Her group will seek a ban on a state level.

A pet store operator in Towson and Rockville, Mitch Thomson, said the proposed law's allowance of collaborations between stores and animal shelters isn't a viable option, as "the nonprofits don't have desirable animals" to sell.

Jesus stolen from church's Nativity scene

KS WICHITA — A Wichita church said "This is why we can't have nice things" after a baby Jesus statue was stolen from an outdoor Nativity scene.

The Wichita Eagle reported that the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Wichita believes baby Jesus was taken the night of Jan. 3, or early morning on Jan. 4. The manger also was destroyed because the Jesus figure had

been chained to it.

The theft came just a few days before the Epiphany, which is the day Christians observe the visit the Three Kings made to the baby Jesus.

A sign staked outside the nativity reads: "Baby Jesus was STOLEN! Please pray for his return." The church said it "can't have nice things" in smaller letters.

Family seeks rescuers of man in burning car

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A family is searching for the people who saved a West Valley City man from a burning car.

KUTV-TV reported Tylor Beynon and his wife, Kerstyn, were driving over the weekend when they were hit by another car, causing theirs to catch fire. Kerstyn Beynon said she was able to escape the burning car but her husband was stuck inside.

The family said strangers rescued Tylor Beynon by breaking the front windows and pulling him out.

Tylor Beynon is in critical condition. Kerstyn Beynon suffered minor injuries.

From wire reports

FACES

Franco

under fire

Golden Globe winner accused of hypocrisy

New York Daily News

James Franco's Golden Globe lost some of its luster after several women went on Twitter and accused him of inappropriate behavior.

Almost immediately after the actor scooped up a trophy for "The Disaster Artist" Sunday, on a night the industry spoke out against sexual harassment, Franco came under attack.

Actress Violet Paley claimed on Twitter that the actor once sexually assaulted her and tried to lure her 17-year-old friend to his hotel room.

Paley, who clarified that she was an adult and not a teen at the time, added that she did have a consensual relationship with Franco, but that the alleged encounter she mentioned was against her will.

Sarah Tither-Kaplan, who was once a student of Franco's at his acting school, alleged that Franco exploited her by asking her to strip down on set for only \$100 per hour after she signed a "vague and general at best" contract.

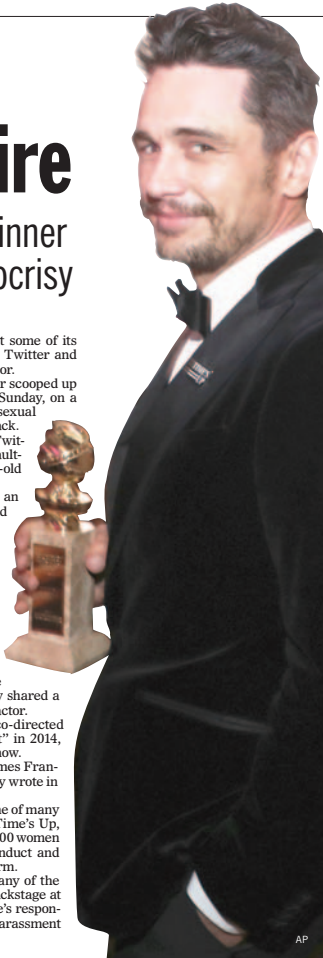
During the show's broadcast, "The Breakfast Club" actress Ally Sheedy shared a series of cryptic tweets naming the actor.

Sheedy, who starred in the Franco-directed off-Broadway play "The Long Shift" in 2014, took issue with his presence at the show.

"Why is a man hosting? Why is James Franco allowed in? Said too much," Sheedy wrote in tweets that have since been deleted.

At the awards show, Franco was one of many stars who wore a pin in support of Time's Up, an initiative launched by more than 300 women in Hollywood to fight sexual misconduct and give a voice to those without a platform.

Franco, 39, has not responded to any of the allegations, but said Sunday night backstage at the Golden Globes that it's "everyone's responsibility" to stand up against sexual harassment and make change in Hollywood.



AP

'Shape of Water' leads BAFTA noms

Associated Press

Cold War monster movie "The Shape of Water" led nominations Tuesday for the British Academy Film Awards, as organizers announced a new female host and promised to fight sexism and sexual misconduct in show business.

Guillermo del Toro's fantastical thriller scored nominations in 12 categories, including best picture and best director, for the U.K. equivalent of the Oscars.

Scorching tragicomedy "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" and Winston Churchill biopic "Darkest Hour" gained nine nominations apiece.

Other multiple nominees include sci-fi sequel "Blade Runner 2049" and World War II drama "Dunkirk," with eight each.

The BAFTA nominations brought good news for two movies snubbed by the Golden Globes: "Dunkirk" and Jordan Peele's comedy-horror story "Get Out." The British academy embraced Christopher Nolan's war picture with nominations for best film and best director, among other categories. "Get Out" gained nomina-

tions for its British star, Daniel Kaluuya, and for original screenplay.

Best-picture nominees are "The Shape of Water," "Three Billboards," "Darkest Hour," "Dunkirk" and lush romance "Call Me By Your Name."

Best-actress nominees are McDormand for "Three Billboards," Annette Bening for "Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool," Margot Robbie for "I, Tonya," Sally Hawkins for "The Shape of Water" and Saoirse Ronan for "Lady Bird."

Best-actor contenders are Daniel Day-Lewis for "Phantom Thread," Gary Oldman for "Darkest Hour," Kaluuya for "Get Out," Jamie Bell for "Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool" and Timothee Chalamet for "Call Me By Your Name." Nominees for best director are del Toro, Martin McDonagh for "Three Billboards," Nolan, Denis Villeneuve for "Blade Runner 2049" and Luca Guadagnino for "Call Me By Your Name."

Winners will be announced on Feb. 18. The ceremony will be hosted by "Absolutely Fabulous" star Joanna Lumley.

Versace family slams new 'American Crime Story' season

The upcoming FX anthology series about the death of Gianni Versace should be viewed as a "work of fiction," according to Versace's family.

The luxury designer's estate made it clear it did not approve or contribute to the highly anticipated new season of "American Crime Story," which attempts to delve into Versace's murder in 1997.

"The Versace family has neither authorized nor had any involvement whatsoever in the forthcoming TV series about the death of Mr. Gianni Versace," Versace's family said in a statement. "... This TV series should only be considered as a work of fiction."

The new season of the popular FX series — officially titled "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" — is based off of a book about the murder titled "Vulgar Favors," which was authored by Maureen Orth and released in 1999.

Other news

■ Los Angeles prosecutors will not bring criminal charges against Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski after a woman said he molested her in 1975

— when she was 10 years old — because the statute of limitations has expired.

■ Less than a month after PBS dropped Tavis Smiley's talk show after reported inappropriate relationships with subordinates, Smiley announced a deal Monday for a new series about inspirational stories. "The Upside with Tavis Smiley" will be streamed online and shown on The Word Network.

■ Eminem, The Killers, Muse, Future, Bassnectar and Sturgill Simpson lead the lineup for this year's **Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival**. The lineup was announced on Tuesday for the event June 7-10 in Manchester, Tenn. Other artists include Bon Iver, Khalid, Kaskade, Paramore, Alt-J, Dua Lipa and Sheryl Crow.

■ Humorist Garrison Keillor says he is in negotiations with Minnesota Public Radio after the radio network cut ties with the former "A Prairie Home Companion" host over unspecified allegations of inappropriate behavior.

■ French pop singer France Gall, who shot to fame in the 1960s by winning the Eurovision Song Contest, then sold millions of albums over a four-decade career, died Sunday. She was 70.

From wire services

Roseanne says her character will support Trump

By Travis M. Andrews

The Washington Post

When "Roseanne" returns to ABC on March 27 after almost two decades off the air, it will include at least one update: Roseanne Conner will be a Trump supporter.

"I've always attempted to portray a realistic portrait of the American people and of working-class people. And in fact it was working-class people who elected Trump," the show's creator, Roseanne Barr, said Monday at the Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour in Pasadena, Calif., the Associated Press reported.

"Half the country voted for him, half of them didn't. It's just realistic," she added, according to the New York Times.

The move is in keeping with the show's ethos. The sitcom stood out when it debuted in 1988 for its portrayal of a blue-collar couple living in Illinois and struggling to make ends meet to support their three children. It was a storyline not often seen on television at the time.

The reboot, which includes most of the original cast, including John Goodman and Laurie Metcalf,

will be in that same spirit. The family "will continue to deal with the economic challenges of living pay check to pay check in 2018," Deadline reported.

The show's creators don't say if any other characters will be portrayed as Trump supporters. Bruce Helford, one of the show's executive producers, said on Monday that the Conners will represent a "full cross-section of ideas and beliefs."

It appears at least one storyline might involve the family becoming divided over politics.

"This is a time when our country is divided," Sara Gilbert, one of the returning cast members from the original series, said on Monday, according to the Hollywood Reporter. "We talk about [politics] in the context of a family. People feel like they can't disagree and still love and talk to each other. It's a great opportunity to have a family divided by politics but is still filled with love. What a great thing to bring into this country right now."



Barr



RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/CF

'We are wasting our time if we don't find another star.'

Katy Perry

One of the new judges on "American Idol," which resumes March 11

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Intel: Fixes on the way for chip security flaws

By MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Intel has big plans to steer toward new business in self-driving cars, virtual reality and other cutting-edge technologies. But first it has to pull out of a skid caused by a serious security flaw in its processor chips, which undergird many of the world's smartphones and personal computers.

Intel CEO Brian Krzanich opened his keynote talk Monday night at the annual CES gadget show in Las Vegas by addressing

the hard-to-fix flaws disclosed by security researchers last week. At an event known for its technological optimism, it was an unusually sober and high-profile reminder of the information security and privacy dangers lurking beneath many of the tech industry's geek-whiz wonders.

Some researchers have argued that the flaws reflect a fundamental hardware defect that can't be fixed short of a recall. But Intel has pushed back against that idea, arguing that the problems can be "mitigated" by software or firmware upgrades. Companies

from Microsoft to Apple have announced efforts to patch the vulnerabilities.

Krzanich promised fixes in the coming week to 90 percent of the processors Intel has made in the past five years, consistent with an earlier statement from the company. But he also added that updates for the remainder of those recent processors should follow by the end of January. Krzanich did not address the company's plans for older chips.

To date, he said, Intel has seen no sign that anyone has stolen data by exploiting the two vul-

nerabilities, known as Meltdown and Spectre. The problems were disclosed last week by Google's Project Zero security team and other researchers. Krzanich commended the "remarkable" collaboration among tech companies to address what he called an industrywide problem.

While Meltdown is believed to primarily affect processors built by Intel, Spectre also affects many of the company's rivals. Flaws affecting the processor chips also endanger the PCs, internet browsers, cloud computing services and other tech-

nology that rely on them. Both bugs could be exploited through what's known as a side-channel attack that could extract passwords and other sensitive data from the chip's memory.

Krzanich then launched into a wide-ranging celebration of the way Intel and its partners are harnessing data for futuristic innovations, from 3D entertainment partnerships with Paramount Pictures to virtual-reality collaborations with the 2018 Winter Olympics and a new breakthrough in so-called quantum computing.

Autos overshadow the gadgets at tech show

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The smartphones and other small machines that used to dominate the annual CES gadget show have been overshadowed in recent years by bigger mobile devices: namely, automobiles.

Auto companies typically save more practical announcements about new cars, trucks and SUVs for the upcoming Detroit auto show. But major automakers such as Toyota, Kia, Hyundai and Ford have a noticeable presence at this week's tech showcase in Las Vegas. CES is a chance for car-makers and suppliers of automotive parts and software to display their wider and far-out ideas.

Among the highlights Monday: ■ Toyota said it's developing self-driving mini-buses that can serve as bite-sized stores. These vehicles will drive themselves to places where potential buyers can try on clothes or shoes or pick through flea market items. The project is still in the conceptual



Joe C. Hong/AP

Toyota's e-Pallet concept was unveiled during a news conference at CES International in Las Vegas on Monday.

stage, with testing expected in the 2020s.

■ Automotive supplier Bosch wants to help guide drivers to vacant parking spots in as many as 20 U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Miami and Boston. The company said it will be working with automakers on the initiative

but didn't say which ones. As cars drive by, they will automatically recognize and measure gaps between parked cars and transmit that data to a digital map.

In other developments at CES: ■ As LG unveiled its lineup of smart appliances, executive David VanderWaal quickly lost

rapport with his on-stage partner, the cute voice-activated assistant CLOI. After a greeting, CLOI stopped responding while continuing to blink its digital eyes.

■ HTC is upgrading its headset for exploring virtual worlds. HTC said the new Vive Pro has better resolution and audio and weighs less than its existing VR model. The Taiwanese company hasn't yet revealed cost or shipping dates. There's also a wireless option coming this summer.

MARKET WATCH

Jan. 8, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	-12.87
	25,283.00
Nasdaq composite	20.83
	7,157.39
Standard & Poor's 500	4.56
	2,747.71
Russell 2000	1.79
	1,561.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 10)	\$1.2234
Dollar buys (Jan. 10)	€0.8174
British pound (Jan. 10)	\$1.39
Japanese yen (Jan. 10)	110.00
South Korean won (Jan. 10)	1,040.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.3516
Canada (Dollar)	1.2454
China (Yuan)	6.5307
Denmark (Krone)	6.2443
Egypt (Pound)	1.6875
Euro	\$1.1927/0.8385
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8203
Hungary (Forint)	259.84
Israel (Shekel)	3.4474
Japan (Yen)	112.73
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3016
Norway (Krone)	8.1285
Philippines (Peso)	50.32
Poland (Zloty)	3.51
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3364
South Korea (Won)	1,070.89
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9834
Thailand (Baht)	32.27
Turkey (New Lira)	1.7730

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.00
Federal funds market rate	4.25
3-month bill	1.43
30-year bond	2.81

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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OPINION

Higher minimum wage can help with sales

By DAVID DAYEN

Los Angeles Times

Eighteen states and 19 cities increased their minimum wages on Jan. 1, raising salaries for an estimated 4.5 million U.S. workers. California's minimum jumped 50 cents to \$10.50 an hour for smaller employers and \$11 an hour for companies with more than 26 employees.

An unspoken convention of policy reporting dictates that you cannot mention this fact without also giving space to the business community's insistence that low-end wage increases destroy jobs. The actual analysis of that question is not that mixed, however.

The classic 1994 study from Alan Krueger and Andrew Card, looking at counties along the Pennsylvania and New Jersey borders after the Keystone State didn't raise its wage and the Garden State did, found no correlation between wage increases and job loss, and if anything a small job increase on the New Jersey side.

While the Fight for \$15 has prompted higher wage floors than anything Krueger and Card contemplated, most subsequent analyses agree with their conclusions. For instance, a University of California, Berkeley report on the food service industry in Seattle, home to one of the highest minimum wages in America, showed that increases to \$13 an hour in 2016 had no effect on employment.

A University of Washington study of the same region did claim that wage increases led to fewer hours for low-end workers and 5,000 fewer jobs than there would have been without the increase. UW's data, however, excluded cities with multiple locations — which comprise 40 percent of the local workforce and include precisely the kind of big-box stores and chain restaurants that have significant numbers of minimum-wage employees.

But if you really want to understand why wage increases are not harmful, but actu-

ally critical in the current economy, you have to plug into a different controversy, involving the owners of Subway sandwich shops.

A few weeks ago, about 900 Subway franchisees sent a letter to the parent company protesting the return of the popular "\$5 Footlong" promotion. Subway's corporate executives set menu prices nationwide; franchisees handle day-to-day operations at more than 10,000 locations. Sales have dropped nearly 25 percent at Subway over the last five years, and management believes the \$5 deal is the only way to show investors a reversal of fortune. The franchisees disagree. They wrote that such cheap sandwiches, which barely cover costs, will leave their businesses "unprofitable and even insolvent."

Beyond Subway, McDonald's has revised its dollar menu, and Taco Bell, Wendy's, Little Caesars and Jack in the Box have all prioritized discount items. "The reality in fast food now is that you need a value menu to survive," market researcher Malcolm Knapp told The Washington Post.

There are several reasons for the price wars, in particular heavy competition from "fast casual" restaurants like Chipotle. But low-end restaurants aren't the only ones cutting prices to reel in customers. One of the fastest-growing retail chains in America is Dollar General, which pursues the country's poorest regions for store growth. Target lowered prices on thousands of items in September.

This suggests that purchasing power at the low end of the economy has become so corroded that sellers must fall over themselves to offer prices that barely enable them to make a profit. Whether the franchisees survive is secondary; investors demand companies chase the only growth area for nonluxury goods — the dirt-cheap end of the spectrum.

That's a result of low wages. Americans did not receive raises from 2007 to 2014, and even that aggregate statistic doesn't tell the whole story. Wall Street investors

encourage companies to cut labor costs; record profits have resulted, with more national income going to the ownership class. Most of the gains since the recession have come at the high end. While low-wage workers are finally seeing some boosts — mostly from minimum wage increases — lack of housing affordability and cost of living increases in areas like health care continue to put them behind.

It's not hard to understand what workers need. The fact that so many can afford to shop only at severely discounted stores indicates that they don't make enough money. This fact not only reflects a tragedy for workers, but for businesses, which must sell items practically at cost to generate sales volume.

The clear solution, both for workers and the businesses they frequent, is to raise wages. Henry Ford figured this out more than 100 years ago. Reckoning that consumers and the workforce were one and the same, Ford sought to cycle more money through the economy, increasing the likelihood that people would purchase his cars. He also wanted to lower labor turnover and retraining costs by giving workers an attractive wage.

These aims doubly resonate for minimum-wage jobs. Turnover costs are enormous in fast food and other low-wage sectors. And the correlation between high salaries and sales is arguably greater in restaurants and retail than for auto assembly lines. Paying people more becomes practically an imperative in an economy so dependent on consumer spending.

Tighter employment markets should take care of this wage conundrum, but only in the areas with the lowest unemployment. Everywhere else, living wages could have a salutary effect, pushing companies out of this race to the bottom on prices and ending the threat of insolvency.

Wage floors won't bankrupt businesses, but low wages might.

David Dayen is a contributing writer for the Los Angeles Times.

American cities left behind now get their turn

By CONOR SEN

Bloomberg View

The past decade has divided U.S. geography into haves and have-nots. The haves: educated, wealthy communities in large metro areas like New York and San Francisco. The have-nots: places with structural problems like cities in the Rust Belt; communities that suffered the worst in the housing bust like Riverside, Ind.; plus perhaps smaller and mid-size cities that lack the infrastructure, amenities and diverse economies of larger metro areas.

There's good news for those left-behind places. The strength and breadth of the current economic expansion is finally about to give them a chance to adapt and reinvent themselves as we look toward the next decade.

Price braces to explain their moment. In the highly educated, coastal urban hubs, housing costs have become exorbitant. That's been the case for years now, which has led to rising housing costs in metro areas "on the fringe" of these wealthy hubs. In the western United States that's meant Seattle, Portland and Denver. In the east it's meant places like Philadelphia, Nashville, and the Research Triangle in North Carolina and Atlanta. But now even those places are grappling with affordability crises, forcing budget-strapped people to consider places in a third, more affordable class of metros.

Additionally, a job market as strong as the one we have now increases labor mobility. Workers have more employment options, so they're more likely to quit their jobs and look for new ones. That's led to increased migration from the Northeast and the Midwest to the South and the West, and from high-cost cities into lower-cost cities and suburbs.

All of this represents an opportunity for left-behind places. But unlike places like New York or San Francisco, or the next tier of places like Denver and Nashville, there are reasons they've been left behind until now. Rust Belt cities struggle with poor demographics. Housing-bust communities like Riverside struggle to build more balanced economies less reliant on real estate speculation. Mid-size cities lack the global access and deep talent pools that bigger metro areas have.

But while these three types of communities may never be able to match up to their more desirable counterparts, they can still offer value to people and come up with better models than they have today. Urban downtowns have been revitalized by converting old factory buildings into loft offices and apartments. Rust Belt cities have plenty of old factory buildings. The Wall Street Journal recently covered the effort in Fort Wayne, Ind., to convert an old General Electric factory complex into a \$440 million loft office-and-apartment development.

The approach for "busted suburbia" like

Riverside is to give the communities more of an urban feel. That might mean mid-rise apartment buildings and mixed-use developments instead of strip malls on major corridors, and townhomes with some walkable amenities and services once neglected in neighborhoods of single-family detached homes. Additionally, by creating "nodes" with somewhat higher density, you create the scale for public transit to make more economic sense for city governments and have more value for residents.

For mid-size cities, the answer might be something more unique. Whether it's mountain towns in the West, grittiness and character of the Rust Belt, or the mix of old and new in the South, most mid-size cities have something distinct about them that can be appealing to both locals and potential migrants. Additionally, because they're smaller, it's often easier for them to move quickly on retrofits like bike trails and walking paths.

One of America's great strengths is its diversity — in its people, its geographic regions and in its urban form. With a strong labor market and persistently high hurdles to affordable housing in our most desirable metro areas, the country now has an opportunity to provide our greatest opportunity to build communities of all types that can succeed in the 21st century.

Conor Sen is a Bloomberg View columnist. He is a portfolio manager for New River Investments in Atlanta and has been a contributor to the Atlantic and Business Insider.

OPINION

GIs are at greater risk in a new Korean war

By TANISHA M. FAZAL
Special To The Washington Post

Is the United States on the brink of war with North Korea? Many observers are worried that the answer is yes — but for a conventional war rather than a nuclear war. And that would put the tens of thousands of U.S. military personnel stationed in South Korea in harm's way, with much higher human costs — and many more fatalities — than the Vietnam war has seen in its recent military conflicts.

How much might those results differ? Consider the numbers of fallen Americans in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Defense Department reports that 1,843 U.S. military personnel were killed in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and 3,481 in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In these recent conflicts, the ratio of wounded to killed has tilted sharply down from that of the past. In the U.S. military involvement in Vietnam, approximately three servicemembers were wounded for every one killed. In Iraq and Afghanistan, that ratio shifted to about 10:1. If the United States went to war, three times as many U.S. military personnel would have died in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This shift is important to understand because it helps us see why fatalities in a new Korean war would be so high.

Why recent military fatalities have been low, but fatalities in North Korea might be high. The improved wounded-to-killed ratio grows from four factors: improvements in preventive care, from immunizations to field sanitation; better battlefield medicine; the use of more efficient personnel protective equipment; and modern evacuation technology.

For U.S. forces, the first two factors would remain in place in a war on the Korean Peninsula. The third one, the protective equipment, might be a possible exception since it includes helmets, body armor and gas masks. Because of the Cuban missile crisis, the United States has not faced chemical weapons attack since World War II, modern gas masks have not been battle-tested on a wide scale. A war with North Korea — which is expected to deploy chemical weapons — would change



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

A South Korean army soldier passes by a signboard showing the distance to North Korea's capital, Pyongyang, and to South Korea's capital, Seoul, from Imjingang Station in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, on Thursday.

that. For any of these medical advances to increase the odds of saving lives, the United States has to be able to evacuate its wounded quickly by air. Modern combat medicine has made great advances in stemming blood loss, for example, but those procedures are typically temporary measures, carried out to keep a patient alive until airlifted to a higher-level, trauma-care facility.

That was possible in Iraq and Afghanistan, where the United States had undisputed control of the skies. But it would not be true on the Korean Peninsula, at least at first. Although it is extremely probable that the United States and South Korea would quickly defeat North Korea's air force, Kim Jong Un's ground-based artillery and missile strikes could make it hard for the U.S. military to evacuate its wounded, or if fewer injured military personnel could be flown to the necessary medical care, more military personnel would die. And, of course, if North Korea used nuclear and/or

chemical weapons, fatality numbers would shoot even higher.

In October, I observed a simulation held at the U.S. Air University, home of the Air Force's Air War College, based on the following scenario: What if a U.S. air base in South Korea was hit by a conventional North Korean airstrike? Told that the runway had been destroyed and that aircraft and other militarily necessary equipment had been damaged, the medics were forced to scramble, and to rethink some fundamental principles of battlefield medical care. Knowing that they would not be able to evacuate casualties via air, and assuming the base was locked down by land, triage and treatment practices had to shift. Certain casualties could be saved if air evacuation was possible — but would have little to no hope without evacuation, and thus would receive only palliative care. A base commander would probably require medics to prioritize care for personnel essential to the mission, even if they had less severe injuries than others. Assuming that

medicine and medical personnel would not be resupplied, medics would not be able to provide the standard of care to which the U.S. military has become accustomed.

To be sure, any longer-term conflict following this type of scenario would see the United States retake control of the skies. But even so, it would have to adjust its assumptions and practices about medical evacuation, with its flights challenged by North Korea in ways that it hadn't seen in Iraq and Afghanistan. A larger proportion of people would die from their wounds.

The politics of increased fatalities. Scholars and observers debate whether and how much U.S. voters care about U.S. military fatalities. Some scholars claim that the American public is very sensitive to casualties, particularly in regions with a relatively high proportion of citizens in military service and therefore at risk for being wounded or killed. Others claim that the increasingly polarized public pays much more attention to how party elites frame military conflicts and their consequences. A third group of scholars argues that the public is relatively indifferent to casualties if it expects military victory — but consensus is unlikely to support a war when the likelihood of winning is low. Public support may depend on how long the war lasts, and policymakers may even time military operations to limit casualties preceding elections.

But how would the public respond if a larger proportion of servicemembers were killed? That's hard to predict. Nor is it easy to foresee whether a spike in the likelihood of dying would hinder recruitment for an all-volunteer military.

We do know, however, that the recent successes of U.S. military medicine have depended on air evacuation, which would be harder to conduct in a new Korean war. That means far more servicemembers would almost certainly die if war broke out between the United States and North Korea.

Tanisha M. Fazal is an associate professor of political science at the University of Minnesota and author of "Wars of Law: Unintended Consequences in the Regulation of Armed Conflict," forthcoming this year.

Pressure Iran while keeping nuclear deal intact

By WILLIAM J. BURNS
AND JAKE SULLIVAN

Special To The Washington Post

Recent protests across Iran offer a new opportunity for American policy — just not the one to which President Donald Trump is instinctively drawn.

In the next few days, the president has to decide whether to continue the nuclear deal with Iran. Trump and his team may be tempted to argue that abiding by the deal while the Iranian government cracks down on protesters is a fool's errand. But that would amount to a strategic own goal. It would make the issue about us, not the vulnerability and wounded legitimacy of a regime out of touch with its people. It would also miss the real policy opportunity before us — to renew international pressure against the Iranian leadership's threats to the region and its people, while still constraining its nuclear ambitions. The administration could reset its policy in a way that puts Washington back in the lead and Tehran on the diplomatic defensive.

The nuclear deal with Iran reserves the option for the U.S. to take measures against the Iranian government for non-nuclear transgressions. There is nothing inconsistent with enforcing the nuclear deal and,

for example, passing new economic measures that target human rights abusers in Iran, as well as actors outside of Iran who are supplying the Iranian security services with the tools to crack down on and censor civilians. The chances of persuading our European and other partners to join similar measures are substantially enhanced if the nuclear agreement is not abandoned.

Furthermore, rather than turning the Iranian protest into a justification for consolidating the regime's stability, the agreement deprived the regime of the argument that outside pressure — not chronic mismanagement, corruption and misallocation of resources — is the source of the miserable economic circumstances of most Iranians. Two years into a just war against the deal, the clerical regime is not sitting comfortably in Tehran. Much as the supreme leader feared during the nuclear negotiations, the deal has exposed the regime's vulnerabilities, not erased them.

Some argue that restoring nuclear sanctions will hasten the end of the regime through economic pressure. Not only is this speculative at best, such a course runs the risk of empowering the Iranian government, creating an us-vs.-them dynamic in Iran that distracts from the moral clarity of the protests. It runs the parallel risk of starting a global battle of who did wrong,

Tehran or Washington, while letting the rest of the world off the hook.

Finally, it would give a green light for Iran to break out of the deal's nuclear shackles, accelerating a nuclear crisis in the Middle East when we already have our hands full with one on the Korean Peninsula.

Instead, the Trump administration should signal to its European partners that it will continue to enforce the deal but also expect them to join in a serious campaign to push back against the regime's behavior at home and abroad. If Iran's violent responses escalates, so should our pressure, making use of sanctions authority we retain outside the nuclear agreement. We should do all we can to make our public condemnations part of a chorus of international statements, not just a solo performance. We should continue to look for ways to enable the information technology and social media tools that connect Iranian citizens to the world and to one another. The administration would also be wise to use this moment to lift its ban on Iranian travel to the United States, which keeps the very people out demonstrating in Iranian streets from coming here to study or visit family.

This strategy should be accompanied by something else that has been missing in the administration's recent comments: humility. Given the practiced repressive

capacity of the Iranian regime, significant political change may be elusive. Instead of appreciating the possibilities and limits of this important moment, the president, vice president and others are going out of their way to make this about political score-settling with former President Barack Obama. Along the way, they are overreading the lessons of 2009 and overstating their own capacity to shape events in Iran.

Unipolar, smart support for the Iranian people, and our strategic interest in a less threatening Iran, lies in keeping the onus on the regime. It doesn't lie in blustery tweets or foolish moves to abrogate agreements that only help an adversary change the subject. Balancing different tools is the hallmark of effective U.S. diplomacy, as President, and for our strategic interest in managing hard-nosed arms-control agreements with the Soviet Union while simultaneously pressing human rights concerns and mobilizing international pressure against dangerous Soviet behavior. That's not a bad model to follow at a moment when Iran's internal contradictions are becoming more evident.

William J. Burns, a former deputy secretary of state, is president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Jake Sullivan, a former director of policy planning at the State Department, is a senior fellow at the organization.


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Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs

Tennessee 22, Kansas City 21
Atlanta 26, Los Angeles Rams 13

Sunday, Jan. 14

Jacksonville 10, Buffalo 3
New Orleans 31, Carolina 25

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 13

Atlanta at Philadelphia
Tennessee at New England

Sunday, Jan. 14

Jacksonville at Pittsburgh
New Orleans at Minnesota

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 21

AFC
TBD
TBD

NFC

Pro Bowl

Sunday, Jan. 28

Orlando, Fla.

AFC vs. NFC

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 4

At Minneapolis, Minn.

AFC champion vs. NFC champion

College hockey

Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS — The top 20 teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, compiled by U.S. College Hockey, ranked the first-place teams and their coaches, records through Jan. 7 and previous rankings through Jan. 7 and previous rankings.

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1	Notre Dame (40)	18-1	988	2
2	St. Louis (40)	18-1	988	2
3	Clarkson (3)	16-1	916	3
4	Michigan State (1)	16-1	916	3
5	Denver (11)	12-6	773	4
6	Ohio State (1)	14-4	707	8
7	North Dakota (1)	14-5	707	8
8	Minnesota State (16)	10-9	617	21
9	Northeastern (12)	5-5	543	9
10	Wisconsin (1)	11-9	539	12
11	Western Michigan (11)	8-4	440	14
12	Penn State (12)	7-3	429	14
13	Clarkson (1)	10-9	429	14
14	Minnesota Duluth (9)	9-9	228	16
15	St. Lawrence (1)	10-9	205	16
16	Omaha (1)	9-9	187	18
17	Wisconsin (1)	10-3	173	18
18	Colgate (1)	9-7	99	17
19	Maine (1)	11-7	97	17
20	Michigan (1)	9-7	78	17

Others receiving votes: UMass Lowell 66, Harvard 16, Michigan Tech 12, New Hampshire 11, Union 8, Bemidji State 6, Canisius 6, Colorado College 6, Niagara 3, Northern Michigan 1.

AP spotlight

Jan. 10 — The longest winning streak in major professional sports is snapped when the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Los Angeles Lakers 104-94, the Lakers ending win 33 straight, but Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's 30-point performance sets his first loss since Oct. 31.

1980 — Goatskiner Jim Stewart, playing in his first and only game with the Boston Bruins, gives up three goals in the first four minutes of a game and a total of five in the first period. He's replaced and never plays in the NHL again.

1982 — Milwaukee's third touch-down pass of the game, a 6-yarder to David Clark, with 51 seconds left, wins, lifts the San Francisco 49ers to 28-27 victory over the Dallas Cowboys in the NFC title game.

2004 — Michelle Khan wins her second straight title and eighth overall at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, winning the bronze medal over Maribel Vinson, has more U.S. championships, with 10.

2010 — Carlos Dansby's 17-yard fumble return for a touchdown in overtime gives the Arizona Cardinals a 51-45 victory over the Green Bay Packers in the highest-scoring game in NFL history.

2011 — Top-ranked Auburn beats No. 2 Oregon 22-19 in the BCS title game. Wes Byrum's 19-yard field goal with no time left — his sixth career game-winning kick — caps off a 1-0 season.

2013 — North Dakota State quarterback Carson Wentz runs five yards for a touchdown, winning the game with a minute left. Robert's 58-yard punt puts Illinois State ahead, and the Bison beats the former St. Louis Cardinals' punters FCS championships with a thrilling 29-27 victory.

College basketball

Men's AP Top 25

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1	Villanova (28)	14-1	1611	3
2	West Virginia (12)	14-1	1588	6
3	Michigan State (12)	14-1	1588	6
4	Michigan State (12)	14-1	1588	6
5	Virginia Tech (12)	14-1	1588	6
6	Wichita State (12)	13-2	1225	9
7	Arizona (12)	13-2	1225	9
8	Texas Tech (12)	14-1	1174	18
9	Oklahoma (12)	13-2	1152	18
10	Arizona (12)	13-2	1050	5
11	Arizona State (12)	13-2	1050	5
12	Kansas (12)	13-2	1050	5
13	Seton Hall (12)	14-2	759	21
14	Cincinnati (12)	14-2	759	21
15	Gonzaga (12)	14-2	759	21
16	TCU (12)	13-2	621	16
17	Arizona (12)	14-2	537	14
18	Miami (12)	13-2	502	15
19	Arizona (12)	14-2	465	15
20	North Carolina (12)	12-4	432	12
21	Cincinnati (12)	14-2	412	17
22	Auburn (12)	14-1	243	—
23	Florida State (12)	12-3	202	24
24	Tennessee (12)	13-2	198	23
25	Creighton (12)	13-3	160	—

121. Florida State, Texas A&M 62, Ohio State 57
122. Baylor 2, New Mexico State 1, Georgia 1, Arkansas 1.

USA Today Top 25

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1	Villanova (28)	14-1	1611	3
2	West Virginia (12)	14-1	1588	6
3	Michigan State (12)	14-1	1588	6
4	Michigan State (12)	14-1	1588	6
5	Virginia Tech (12)	14-1	1588	6
6	Wichita State (12)	13-2	1225	9
7	Arizona (12)	13-2	1225	9
8	Texas Tech (12)	14-1	1174	18
9	Oklahoma (12)	13-2	1152	18
10	Arizona (12)	13-2	1050	5
11	Arizona State (12)	13-2	1050	5
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14	Cincinnati (12)	14-2	759	21
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Golf

World rankings

2.	Jordan Spieth	USA	9.03
3.	Jon Rahm	ESP	8.79
4.	Justin Thomas	USA	8.30
5.	Hideki Matsuyama	JPN	7.89
6.	Justin Rose	ENG	7.75
7.	Rickie Fowler	USA	6.83
8.	Brooks Koepka	USA	6.15
9.	Henrik Stenson	SWE	7.89
10.	Sergio Garcia	ESP	5.56
11.	Rory McIlroy	NIR	5.50
12.	Paul Casey	AUS	23
13.	Jason Day	AUS	4.91
14.	Paul Casey	USA	4.80
15.	Matt Kuchar	USA	4.65
16.	Pat Perez	USA	4.57
17.	Tyrell Hatton	ENG	4.56
18.	Tommy Fleetwood	ENG	4.56
19.	Alex Noren	SWE	4.48
20.	Rafael Cabrera Bello	ITA	4.48
21.	Francesco Molinari	ITA	3.78
22.	Charley Hoffman	USA	3.73
23.	Tommy Fleetwood	USA	3.71
24.	Louis Oosthuizen	SAF	3.67
25.	Patrick Reed	USA	3.63

FedEx Cup leaders

Through Jan. 7		
	Points	Money
1. Pat Perez	761	\$1,973,532
2. Dustin Johnson	761	\$1,973,532
3. Patton Kizzire	713	\$1,787,872
4. Patrick Cantlay	609	\$1,448,900
5. Austin Cook	601	\$1,304,899
6. Justin Thomas	586	\$1,448,900
7. Brendan Steele	586	\$1,312,250
8. Justin Rose	550	\$1,660,000
9. Brian Harman	478	\$1,218,063
10. Cameron Hadley	478	\$1,131,100
11. Tony Finau	453	\$994,413
12. J.J. Spaun	427	\$957,837
13. Adam Fowler	411	\$1,062,800
14. Wee Kim Chi	411	\$1,106,025
15. Marc Leishman	405	\$1,267,500
16. Ryan Armour	401	\$656,498
17. Cameron Smith	344	\$803,500
18. Jon Rahm	322	\$803,500
19. Alex Ceja	315	\$775,900

Monday's men's scores

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1	Army 58, American U. 54			
2	Bethune-Cookman 89, Marist 80			
3	Boston U. 32, Lehigh 82			
4	Bucknell 80, Lafayette 75, Otterbein 64, Loyola (Md.) 57			
5	Colgate 70, Navy 62			
6	NC A&T 76, Delaware 65			
7	Albama A&M 65, MVU 55			
8	Ark-Pine Bluff 54, Alabama St. 58			
9	Baylor 79, Florida A&M 62			
10	Grambling St. 72, Alcorn St. 61			
11	Jackson St. 69, Southern 61			
12	Livingstone 74, Chowan 61			
13	Morgan St. 69, Southern 61			
14	NC Central 64, Norfolk St. 63			
15	Augustine 64, Union 56			

Midwest

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1	Augsburg 62, St. Thomas (Minn.) 52			
2	Bethel (Minn.) 73, Hamline 63			
3	Concordia (Moor) 67, St. Mary's (Minn.) 64			
4	Gustavus 98, Macalester 79			
5	St. John's (Minn.) 69, Carleton 68			

Women's AP Top 25

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1	UConn (32)	15-1	747	2
2	Notre Dame (12)	15-1	747	2
3	Alabama A&M 65, MVU 55			
4	Ark-Pine Bluff 54, Alabama St. 58			
5	Baylor 79, Florida A&M 62			
6	Grambling St. 72, Alcorn St. 61			
7	Jackson St. 69, Southern 61			
8	Livingstone 74, Chowan 61			
9	Morgan St. 69, Southern 61			
10	NC Central 64, Norfolk St. 63			
11	Augustine 64, Union 56			
12	Augsburg 62, St. Thomas (Minn.) 52			
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Monday's women's scores

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1	Bethune-Cookman 55, Md.-Eastern Shore 48			
2	Bucknell 80, Lafayette 53			
3	Colgate 70, Navy 62			
4	NC A&T 76, Delaware 65			
5	Albama A&M 65, MVU 55			
6	Ark-Pine Bluff 54, Alabama St. 58			
7	Baylor 79, Florida A&M 62			
8	Grambling St. 72, Alcorn St. 61			
9	Jackson St. 69, Southern 61			
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10	Livingstone 74, Chowan 61			
11	Morgan St. 69, Southern 61			
12	NC Central 64, Norfolk St. 63			
13	Augustine 64, Union 56			

Monday's women's scores

6. Brian Harman	1,813.852
7. Rickie Fowler	1,582.937
8. Patrick Reed	1,144.224
9. Bill Haas	927.772
10. Charley Hoffman	890.709
11. Zach Johnson	877.254
12. Kevin Channell	736.087

NBA/NHL/NFL

Kerr calls Ball 'the Kardashians of the NBA'

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Golden State coach Steve Kerr called LaVar Ball "the Kardashians of the NBA" on Monday night and said he thinks the father of Lakers rookie Lonzo Ball has zero credibility.

Disgusted, Kerr made his remarks before the Warriors' game against Denver. He was asked about LaVar Ball after the demonstrative dad told ESPN that the Lakers no longer want to play for coach Luke Walton, a dear Kerr friend and former top assistant with the Warriors.

Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle, president of the National Basketball Coaches Association, has called the ESPN article "a disgrace" and LaVar Ball's comments an "ignorant distraction."

"Somewhere, I guess in Lithuania, LaVar Ball is laughing at all of us. People are eating out of his hands for no apparent reason, other than he's become like the Kardashians of the NBA or something," Kerr said. "And that sells, and that's what's true in politics and entertainment and now in sports. It doesn't matter if there's any substance involved with an issue, it's just can we make it really interesting for no apparent reason? There is nothing interesting about that story."

Kerr is in regular touch with Walton and hates to see him in this position. Ball claimed Walton "has no control" of the team and is too young for his job.

"I feel horrible for Luke, that's my guy, he's one of my best friends," Kerr said. "He shouldn't have to deal with this. But to me one of the things about the NBA is it's always been a haven from the parents. The guys who coach high school are the ones who really have to deal with the parents. I've never had to talk to a parent who was upset about playing time. I'm sure there are plenty out there but they don't have a voice in the NBA. But for whatever reason we're giving this guy a voice and Luke's got to deal with it, and it's a shame. He's handling it great. He's doing all he can. It's just part of his gig, unfortunately."



DAVID J. PHILLIPS/AP

Warriors coach Steve Kerr said he thinks the father of Lakers rookie Lonzo Ball has zero credibility.



CHRIS YOUNG, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Blue Jackets goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky makes a save against the Maple Leafs Frederik Gauthier during second period on Monday.

Panarin's goal in OT caps rally

Associated Press

TORONTO — Columbus goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky had a hard time holding back his smile after a come-from-behind victory over Toronto.

Artemi Panarin scored 3:11 into overtime to help the Blue Jackets overcome a two-goal deficit and beat the Maple Leafs 3-2 on Monday night.

Bobrovsky made 35 saves, including a handful of big ones to keep his team within 2-0 before a third-period rally. Columbus scored twice in the final 4:35 of the third period to set up Panarin's OT goal, when he took a pass off his skate and kicked it to his stick for the winner.

"Those kind of wins make good atmosphere in the locker-room, lots of energy, lots of happiness," Bobrovsky said.

Nick Foligno and Pierre-Luc Dubois scored in the third for Columbus. Foligno scored after goalie Frederik Andersen lost a bouncing puck before it found its way behind him, then Dubois tied it with 2:47 left, snapping a wrist shot blocker side on Andersen from the slot.

"We knew if we scored one somehow that it changes momentum," Blue Jackets coach John Tortorella. "The saves (Andersen) made during the game and that one goes in ... it's a funny game."

James van Riemsdyk and William Nylander scored for the Maple Leafs. Andersen stopped 30 shots.

"At least 50 minutes or so we played great. I think we could have put it away in the third and we didn't. Then they get a good bounce and, yeah, it's tied up," Andersen said.

Andersen kept the Leafs in long enough for van Riemsdyk to open the scoring at 11:09 of the second period, deflecting Roman Polak's point shot past Bobrovsky for his 18th goal.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	Atlantic Division	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	42	30	9	3	63	155	103
Boston	40	23	9	8	53	131	102
Toronto	44	25	16	3	53	143	127
Detroit	41	17	17	7	41	112	127
Florida	41	17	18	6	40	133	133
Montreal	40	18	20	4	40	108	129
Ottawa	30	14	17	9	37	111	138
Buffalo	40	20	19	9	29	122	143

Metropolitan Division

Washington	42	26	13	3	55	132	120
Columbus	44	24	16	5	53	121	121
New Jersey	41	22	11	8	52	130	125
N.Y. Rangers	42	24	15	4	49	128	117
Pittsburgh	44	22	19	3	47	126	138
Carolina	41	19	14	8	45	115	126
Philadelphia	42	19	15	8	46	123	122
N.Y. Islanders	43	21	18	4	46	146	158

Western Conference

	Central Division	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	43	25	11	1	57	144	111
St. Louis	45	26	16	3	55	130	115
Nashville	40	23	15	4	49	128	117
Dallas	43	24	16	3	51	132	118
Colorado	42	22	16	4	49	135	124
Minnesota	42	20	17	3	47	123	122
Chicago	41	20	15	6	45	125	114

Vegas	41	29	10	2	60	143	113
Los Angeles	42	24	13	5	53	126	99
San Jose	40	21	13	6	48	110	106
Anaheim	43	18	15	9	47	117	120
Calgary	41	21	16	4	46	115	119
Edmonton	43	18	22	3	39	110	141
Vancouver	42	20	19	6	38	110	140
Arizona	43	10	27	6	26	98	150

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss, two points for each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's games

Philadelphia at Buffalo	1
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey	4, 50
Winnipeg at San Jose	1
Chicago at Edmonton	1
Washington at St. Louis	3, OT
Columbus at Florida	2, 56
Maple Leafs at Detroit	2
Montreal at Vancouver	2
Pittsburgh at Boston	5, OT
Vegas at N.Y. Rangers	1

Monday's game

St. Louis at Toronto	2, OT
Winnipeg at Buffalo	1
Vancouver at Washington	1
Chicago at Ottawa	1
Carolina at Tampa Bay	1
Edmonton at Nashville	1
Calgary at Minnesota	1
Florida at St. Louis	1

Wednesday's games

Ottawa at Toronto	1
Minnesota at Chicago	1
Thursday's games	
Carolina at Washington	1
Columbus at Buffalo	1
Florida at Tampa Bay	1

Monday

Blue Jackets 3, Leafs 2 (OT)	
Columbus 4, Panthers 1	
Toronto 0, 2 0 0-2	

Second Period—1, Toronto, van Riemsdyk 18 (Polak, Bozak), 11:09. 2, Toronto, Nylander 9 (Gardiner), 16:02 (Pit).

Third Period—3, Columbus, Foligno 9 (Schroeder, Nutivaara), 15:25. 4, Columbus, Dubois 10 (Jones), 17:13.

Overtime—5, Columbus, Panarin 11 (Jones, Werenski), 3:11.

Shots on goal—Columbus 11-14-4-4-3, Toronto 8-14-13-2-3-37.

Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 3; Toronto 1 of 2.

Goalies—Columbus, Bobrovsky 21-12-3; Toronto, Andersen 35 saves, 12-12-3 (33-30).

22-12-2 (33-30).

A-18-333 (18,819), T-2,229.

Steelers set for rematch with Jags

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Even as he sat in the back of a police car racing to the hospital to get a precise prognosis on his injured left calf while the Pittsburgh Steelers played on without him during a loss to New England three weeks ago, Antonio Brown always believed he'd be back.

He just needed time.

When his teammates provided it by assuring the AFC North champions of a first-round bye, Brown pushed his rehab.

By last weekend's vivid surfaced of Brown working out in Florida with former NFL wide receiver Chad Ochocinco.

And there Brown was on Monday, going through drills with the rest of the Steelers well on track for a return on Sunday against Jacksonville in the divisional round of the playoffs.

"I never count myself out regardless of circumstances," Brown said. "I know playing football you're going to have adversity. Just got to grow from it."

While stressing he's "still got a lot to test," the only unanimous selection on the 2017 All-Pro Team and the only player in NFL history with five straight seasons with at least 100 receptions appeared to be relatively close to his old self.

"AB is nice," cornerback Joe Haden said. "If he's out there, I expect him to be AB. He's not going to be out there limping around. When he was running, he looked pretty good. You never know how it's going to feel afterward, but while he's out there, while he's running his routes, he looked like AB."

Brown left in the first half against New England on Dec. 17 when his legs got tangled with a pair of Patriots defenders while trying to haul in a touchdown pass.

The Steelers lost 27-23 before rebounding to close out the regular season with wins over Houston and Cleveland.

Still, the best chance at reaching the AFC championship game for a second consecutive season comes with Brown's No. 84 in the lineup.

The Jaguars have one of the NFL's top defensive backfields,

though Brown still finished with 10 receptions and 157 yards on Oct. 8, the lone bright spot for the Steelers in a 30-9 loss in which Jacksonville scored the final 23 points and left Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger shaken after throwing five interceptions.

Roethlisberger hasn't shied away from talk of a rematch. That's fine by the Jaguars.

"Be careful what you wish for," Jacksonville cornerback AJ Bouye said. "This is what he wanted. This is what he's going to get."

What the Steelers are likely to get in return is a heavy dose of Jaguars rookie running back Leonard Fournette.

He was dominant with 181 yards and two touchdowns against Pittsburgh in October, including a backbreaking 90-yard sprint with 1:47 left that showcased the speed and the power that makes him so dangerous. Jacksonville finished with 231 yards rushing in all, the most given up by the Steelers all season.

It was perhaps the biggest upset in the NFL season at the time. In the rearmost, not so much. The Jaguars have proven they're legit while reaching the playoffs for the first time in a decade.

Though Jacksonville cornerback Jalen Ramsey suggested Pittsburgh must feel like the loss was a "fluke," the Steelers insist that's not the case.

"We don't feel like it was a fluke," Incebacker Bud Dupree said. "We actually saw the plays they made and everything that was going on and the mistakes that we made and ... that's what happens. We let them get a couple of explosion plays."

Yet Steelers safety Mike Mitchell is still keen to point out the blowout on the scoreboard didn't exactly reflect what happened on the field. Even with Fournette's closeout dash to the end zone, Pittsburgh outgained the Jaguars 373-313.

"If you watch that football game, it's not like their offense exploited us a ton," Mitchell said. "I don't think it was a dominant performance from that standpoint. I thought we played well enough to win the game. Obviously we didn't. We've got to do better. Sunday as a complete team to win the game."

AFC games on AFN



Tennessee Titans (10-7)
at New England Patriots (13-3)

AFN-Sports

2 a.m. Sunday CET

10 a.m. Sunday JKT



Jacksonville Jaguars (11-6)
at Pittsburgh Steelers (13-3)

AFN-Sports

7 p.m. Sunday CET

3 a.m. Monday JKT

NFL PLAYOFFS



MICHAEL PEREZ/AP

Eagles quarterback Nick Foles waits for the snap during a game against Dallas. Philadelphia is the NFC's No. 1 seed but no longer the Super Bowl favorites with Foles playing for injured starter Carson Wentz.

Top-seeded Eagles aware of historic underdog status

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Quarterback Carson Wentz's value to the Philadelphia Eagles is reflected clearly in a historic betting line.

The Eagles (13-3) are the first No. 1 seed to be an underdog in their opening playoff game. The sixth-seeded Atlanta Falcons (11-6) are 2½-point favorites in Saturday's NFC divisional playoff.

"It doesn't really matter," wide receiver Torrey Smith said Monday. "We're better than that, but we have to show it."

After Wentz tore his ACL in Week 14, the Eagles went 2-1 with backup Nick Foles. But the offense was inconsistent. Foles played well in his first five quarters after replacing Wentz and struggled in the next five. He sat out the final three quarters in Week 17 along with most of the starters.

Odds makers weren't impressed. Of course, players and coaches shrugged off the disrespect.

"I don't care what people say because what people say has never won a game for me and my teammates," linebacker Dannelle Ellerbe said.

Defensive end Chris Long said it would be foolish for the team to use this as motivation.

"This is not the way we think," he said.

The Falcons are coming off a 26-13 playoff win at the Los Angeles Rams after beating Carolina in a win-or-lose regular-season finale. The defending NFC champions had their worst offensive performance during the 2016 season in a 24-15 loss at Philadelphia in Week 10.

Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz isn't drawing too much from that victory. Atlanta



MICHAEL PEREZ/AP

Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz, left, walks with head coach Doug Pederson, right, before a game against Oakland in December.



Atlanta Falcons (11-6)
at Philadelphia Eagles (13-3)

AFN-Sports
10 p.m. Saturday CET
6 a.m. Sunday JKT

has a new offensive coordinator

Steve Sarkisian replaced Kyle Shanahan — and it took a while for them to get things on track.

"They are a little bit different than last year," Schwartz said.

"Every team's going to be a little bit different from year-to-year. There's going to be some things you do well, some things that you put in in the offseason, some things that maybe fit your personality a little bit more. There's still a lot of challenges with that team. I mean, it goes well beyond a player like Julio Jones. It goes well beyond the quarterback (Matt Ryan). Their tight end (Austin Hooper) is having a great year. Their running backs (Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman), if you combine the running back stats, you're talking about a first-team All-Pro — 1,500 yards, I think 12 touchdowns. So we have to look at it that way. There's going to be a lot of challenges this

'Totally different' teams from opener

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — For fans of the Minnesota Vikings, at least the ones old enough to drive, there's a score to be settled with the New Orleans Saints.

Eight years ago, the last Minnesota team considered a strong Super Bowl contender was on the verge of victory in New Orleans in the NFC championship game despite four earlier turnovers.

That was until the infamous 12-men-in-the-huddle penalty with 19 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter pushed the Vikings out of field goal range and preceded Brett Favre's ill-fated throw across his body that was intercepted by Tracy Porter to force overtime and steer the Saints toward the franchise's only title.

There's only one player, defensive end Brian Robison, who's still around from that season, however. That painful stumble at the end of the most important game the Vikings have played in almost two decades doesn't mean much at all to the guys on the 2017 roster.

"We just have to come out and play our game, regardless of who's mad at who for whatever reason," wide receiver Jarius Wright said.

Head coach Mike Zimmer was actually sitting in the seats that evening, with his defensive coordinator duties for Cincinnati on break with the Bengals already eliminated from the playoffs. His son, Adam Zimmer, was an assistant linebackers coach for New Orleans that year.

"I was just sitting there observing. I wasn't really rooting for anybody or anything like that," Zimmer said.

For these Vikings, the Saints simply represent their first obstacle to being the first team to play in a Super Bowl in its home stadium. They had to wait until the very end of their bye week to find out who they would be facing in the divisional round game, with the Saints topping the Carolina



New Orleans Saints (12-5)
at Minnesota Vikings (13-3)

AFN-Sports
10:30 p.m. Sunday CET
6:30 a.m. Monday JKT

Panthers 31-26 in New Orleans on Sunday night.

"I think they understand the magnitude of where we're at in the playoffs and that New Orleans is a heck of a football team," Zimmer said on Monday afternoon, when the Vikings reconvened for preparation.

The Vikings beat the Saints 29-19 in the season opener, when Sam Bradford was their quarterback and Dalvin Cook was the running back for an offense that took full advantage of a young defense trying to get set. The Saints also still had Adrian Peterson in their backfield then, before trading him to the Arizona Cardinals and clearing space for rookie Alvin Kamara to elevate his role next to Mark Ingram.

"From the first time we played them to now, it's totally different," Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes said.

For both teams, really, September was so long ago.

"I would expect that they've kind of grown into their own identity now," Saints linebacker Manti Te'o said. "I don't expect to see the same team that we saw Week 1, and I know they don't expect to see the same team they saw in Week 1, too."

Bradford has resumed practicing, but he likely will remain on injured reserve this week with Teddy Bridgewater backing up Case Keenum at quarterback.

"We'll just take our time," Zimmer said of Bradford's status, "and see how it goes."



JIM MONE/AP

Saints quarterback Drew Brees is sacked by the Vikings' Everson Griffen during the season opener when both teams looked a lot different than they do now.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Tide No. 1 in final poll for 11th time; UCF 6th

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Alabama was voted No. 1 in the final Associated Press college football poll after the Crimson Tide beat Georgia in the national championship game. Unbeaten Central Florida finished sixth.

The Crimson Tide received 57 of 61 first-place votes from the media panel after its 26-23 overtime win on Monday night. UCF received the other four and finished with the best ranking in the history of the program. The Knights are the first bowl-eligible team to finish the season undefeated and not win a national title since TCU in 2010. Ohio State was 12-0 in 2012, but banned from the postseason by the NCAA.

Georgia finished second, its best ranking since 2007, and Oklahoma was third, followed by Clemson and Ohio State.

The AP national championship is the 11th for the Crimson Tide, three more than any other school, and fifth under coach Nick Saban since 2009. Saban joins the late Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant

as the only coaches with five AP titles.

Alabama is the first preseason No. 1 to finish No. 1 since Southern California in 1956 and the 11th overall. For the fourth time, two teams from the same conference finished Nos. 1 and 2. The last three times it has happened involved Southeastern Conference teams at the top (2007, 2011 and now 2017).

Washington State, which lost to Michigan State 42-17 in the Holiday Bowl, was the only team ranked in the final regular-season poll to fall out of the Top 25 after the bowl season. North Carolina State moved in after beating Arizona State 52-31 in the Sun Bowl and finished No. 23.

Conference call

Big Ten — 5
SEC — 5
ACC — 4
Big 12 — 3
AAC — 3
Pac-12 — 3
Mountain West — 1
Independent — 1

Scoreboard

The AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press final college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote and previous ranking.

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Alabama (57)	13-1	1521	4
2. Georgia	13-2	1454	3
3. Oklahoma	12-2	1374	2
4. Clemson	12-2	1292	1
5. Ohio St.	12-2	1286	5
6. UCF (4)	13-0	1248	10
7. Wisconsin	13-1	1194	6
8. Penn St.	11-2	1120	9
9. TCU	11-3	974	13
10. Auburn	10-4	917	7
11. Notre Dame	10-3	857	14
12. Southern Cal	11-3	839	8
13. Miami	10-3	769	11
14. Oklahoma St.	10-3	758	17
15. Michigan St.	10-3	705	18
16. Washington	10-3	668	12
17. Northwestern	10-4	589	24
18. LSU	9-4	368	16
19. Stanford	9-4	358	20
20. Mississippi St.	9-5	336	15
21. South Florida	10-6	267	23
22. Boise St.	11-3	251	25
23. NC State	9-4	232	19
24. Virginia Tech	9-4	126	22
25. Memphis	10-3	119	19

Other receiving votes: Washington St., 34; South Carolina, 46; Iowa St., 36; Army, 33; FAU, 32; Troy, 14; Fresno St., 13; San Diego St., 3; Iowa, 2.

Undefeated-No. 1 championship

Undefeated teams that did not win the national championship. List includes only years when final poll was released after bowl games (1965 and 1968 present).

2017 — UCF, 13-0 (No. 6).	2010 — TCU, 13-0 (No. 2).
2009 — Boise State, 14-0 (No. 4).	2008 — Utah, 13-0 (No. 2).
2006 — Boise State, 13-0 (No. 5).	2004 — Auburn, 13-0 (No. 4; on NCAA probation).
1999 — Marshall, 13-0 (No. 10).	1998 — Tulane, 12-0 (No. 2).
1997 — Nebraska, 13-0 (No. 2).	1994 — Penn State, 12-0 (No. 2).
1993 — Auburn, 11-0 (No. 4; on NCAA probation).	1991 — Washington, 12-0 (No. 2).
1976 — Rutgers, 11-0 (No. 17).	1975 — Arizona State, 12-0 (No. 2); Arkansas State, 11-0 (NR).
1973 — Penn State, 12-0 (No. 5); Miami, Ohio, 12-0 (No. 13).	1971 — Toledo, 12-0 (No. 14).
1970 — Arizona State 11-0 (No. 8); Toledo, 12-0 (No. 12); Dartmouth, 9-0 (No. 14).	1969 — Penn State, 11-0 (No. 2); San Diego State, 11-0 (NR); Toledo, 11-0 (NR).
1968 — Penn State, 11-0 (No. 2).	1965 — Dartmouth, 9-0 (unranked).

Alabama finished third in the final 1966 poll at 10-0 and won its bowl game for an 11-0 record.



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Alabama's Raekwon Davis sacks Georgia's Jake Fromm during the second half of the College Football Playoff championship game on Monday in Atlanta. Fromm threw for 232 yards and a touchdown.

Georgia can't find more OT magic in crushing loss

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Georgia had no reason to fear overtime with the national championship on the line.

Last week's double-overtime win over Oklahoma in the Rose Bowl should have been the perfect setup for the Bulldogs. Georgia players had every reason to feel emboldened by their chances when facing overtime in Monday night's championship game against Alabama.

That's what made the 26-23 loss to the Crimson Tide even more crushing. Georgia's wait for its first national championship since 1958 continues.

"Guys fought so hard all season long," said cornerback Aaron Davis. "We really wanted this one bad and just came up one play short. ... When it came down to that one play, I just hated to see it end like that."

After a 51-yard field goal by Rodrigo Blankenship gave Georgia the lead, Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa was sacked by Davin Bellamy and Jonathan Ledbetter for a loss of 16 yards.

Georgia's confidence soared even higher.

"Yes, we are very confident in one another," said tailback Sony Michel. "We're confident in our coaches. We're confident in our staff, and we're confident in our players. So there was no doubt in our mind that we were going to go out there and win that game."

The finish brought heartbreak for the Bulldogs. On second down, Tagovailoa found DeVonta Smith for a 41-yard game-winning touchdown pass. Makkonn Parrish was trailing on the play and Dominick Sanders was supposed to provide safety support.

"I rerouted my guy and I just turned and looked and saw [Smith] catch the ball," Davis said. "I don't know what happened over there. I just looked up and saw him wide open like that. It was a communication issue, something we can't have."

Georgia players were emotional on the field and in the locker room. Freshman quarterback Jake Fromm described the final minutes as "a total rollercoaster," but said the players will recover.

"At the end of the day you take it and process and go out and try to make another play," Fromm said.

Georgia led 13-0 and 20-7 but couldn't finish against a resilient Alabama team accustomed to success on the championship stage.

"That was a great defense we went up against," said tailback Nick Chubb, who was held to only 25

yards rushing on 18 carries. "A lot of respect for what they do. A lot of big bodies up front, makes it hard to run. But at the end of the day, it just comes down to us not executing well."

Michel led the Bulldogs with 98 yards rushing, but for much of the game Fromm was asked to carry a heavier load than normal. Georgia had seven passes and no carries on its first two possessions. Fromm completed 16 of 32 passes for 232 yards with two interceptions and one touchdown.

"I think we'll respond well and definitely take it as motivation," Fromm said. "Nobody in this locker room wants to feel this way again."

Georgia coach Kirby Smart remained positive after falling short of beating his former longtime boss, Alabama coach Nick Saban.

"In overtime we didn't finish when we had to and Alabama did," Smart said. "Give them credit, but I think everybody can see that Georgia's going to be a force to be reckoned with."

Smart said "the standard's been set" for the program by the seniors, including Chubb.

"I can't put into words what these seniors mean," Smart said. "We're running out of the tunnel to-night, and ... [Chubb] comes by me and says, 'I'll go anywhere with you, and I'll follow you anywhere, and I'll fight for you because I believe in you.' And that meant more to me than anything."



AJ REYNOLDS, ATHENS BANNER-HERALD/AP

Georgia's Mecole Hardman runs for a touchdown after a catch late in the second quarter of the College Football Playoff championship game on Monday. The Bulldogs led 13-0 at halftime.

Alabama players celebrate after the national championship game against Georgia on Monday. Alabama won 26-23.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Youth served

Talented freshmen help give Alabama boost

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Alabama's latest group of hotshot recruits delivered on college football's biggest stage.

And the Crimson Tide needed every big play from them.

Quarterback Tua Tagovailoa capped a second-half comeback with a 41-yard touchdown pass in overtime to fellow freshman DeVonta Smith on Monday night's 26-23 win over Georgia to give the Tide a fifth national championship in nine years.

The youth movement started well before that play. It featured runs by Najee Harris and a touchdown reception by Henry Ruggs III with help from a big catch by Jerry Jeudy.

"When the game that mattered most came around and we got opportunities, we made the most out of it," Harris said.

The outgoing stars passed the torch to the next wave a little earlier than expected.

Tagovailoa replaced starter Jalen Hurts to start the second half with Alabama down 13-0. He passed for 166 yards and three touchdowns and flashed some running ability, too.

Harris ran for 64 yards on six carries and delivered some big fourth-quarter runs. He had a 16-yarder and a 35-yarder to set up a field goal and help keep Alabama alive.

Ruggs caught a 6-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter. Jeudy had a 20-yard catch on Alabama's tying touchdown drive late in the fourth.

Then came Smith and Tagovailoa and a final freshman connection on second and

26 after a sack.

"I looked at Tua and said, 'Trust me,' and he nodded his head," Smith said. "When I saw they were in Cover 2, I knew we had a chance."

The freshmen were matter of fact about their accomplishments. Making plays and winning titles is why the prized recruits came to Alabama, after all.

"When they just called anybody's number, we were ready," Smith said. "That's what everybody comes here to do. When your number is called, you're here just to make plays."

The players who played pivotal roles in getting Alabama to the title game — like Hurts and tailback Damien Harris — didn't seem to mind sharing the spotlight with the young 'uns.

Tagovailoa, Najee Harris and Jeudy were all five-star recruits joining the fold of a team that reloads annually.

"We expect stuff like that," Damien Harris said. "No matter who you are, no matter how long you're here, no matter what your experience is, whenever you get here you're expected to play to a standard. We've got a lot of young guys that were able to do that this year and in this game. We had a lot of older guys come in and contribute as well."

Benched or not, Hurts was in the middle of the celebration and all smiles in the locker room. He had led Alabama to the national title game as both a freshman and sophomore but struggled in the first half.

Coach Nick Saban benched him in what Hurts called "an executive decision."

"As a competitor, of course you understand it," Hurts said. "As a team player



AJ REYNOLDS, ATHENS BANNER-HERALD/AP

Alabama wide receiver Jerry Jeudy jumps to catch a pass in front of Georgia cornerback Malkam Parrish during the national championship game on Monday in Atlanta.

and as a leader, you've got to do what's best for the team. If that's what was best for the team, then I support it completely.

"In the national championship game, all the personal things, that's out the window. You want to win this game for the team."

Saban's sixth championship is his greatest of all

By PAUL NEWBERY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Nick Saban saved his best for No. 6.

He's won plenty of national titles with better players than everyone else.

This time, it was all about the coach.

If there was ever any doubt that Saban will go down as the greatest ever to prowling college sideline, it was totally erased with the championship that pulled him even with the Bear.

In a most un-Saban-like move, he switched quarterbacks at halftime of the national championship game, the kind of desperate play you might expect from a brash young up-and-comer, not a 66-year-old all about the methodical process — covering every base, accounting for every scenario, winning over and over again without a lot of drama.

Tua Tagovailoa, a ukulele-playing, left-handed freshman from Hawaii, took the field at the start of the third quarter with Alabama trailing 13-0 and doing absolutely nothing on offense. The Tide had accounted for just four first downs and 97 yards with two-year starter Jalen Hurts taking the snaps, but it was a bold decision nonetheless by the wily ol' coach.



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS BANNER-HERALD/AP

Alabama coach Nick Saban argues a call during the first half Monday in Atlanta.

After all, this was the biggest game of the season, and Hurts was the one who led Alabama there for the second year in a row. He's a proven winner, having lost only two out of 28 games coming into Monday night, and it certainly would've been the safe bet to stick with him a little longer.

But Saban — who refuses to let the game pass him by even as coaches young enough to be his sons kept attempting to take him down (including former assistant Kirby Smart, who now coaches Georgia) — switched to Tagovailoa without hesitation.

It might go down as the greatest decision in a career filled with them.

Tagovailoa completed 14 of 24 passes for 166 yards and three touchdowns, the last of them a 41-yard strike in overtime to DeVonta Smith that gave Alabama a 26-23 victory over Georgia.

"We've had this in our mind that, if we were struggling offensively, that we would give Tua an opportunity, even in the last game," Saban said. "No disrespect to Jalen, but ... I thought Tua would give us a better chance and a spark, which he certainly did."

The Tide rallied from a pair of 13-point deficits, and managed to pull it together after Andy Papanastou shanked a 36-yard field goal try that would've won the game on the final play of regulation. Georgia went on offense first in overtime and, after Jake Fromm took a huge sack, the Bulldogs settled for Ricardo Blanton's 51-yard field goal. Alabama's offense took the field and immediately fell into a huge hole. Georgia sniffed out a screen pass, Tagovailoa couldn't pick up his next option and Georgia dumped the youngster for a 16-yard loss.

One play later, the Tide were national champions.

With the poise of a veteran,

Tagovailoa looked to his right, causing the Georgia safeties to slide toward that side of the field. Then he swung the other way, launching a pass to Smith streaking down the left sideline. He ran right by cornerback Malkam Parrish, who clearly thought he had help from safety Dominick Sanders, and hauled in a pass that was delivered in stride as he glided all alone into the end zone.

Saban has now won five national titles in his 11 years at Alabama, and his first season doesn't really count since he had to rebuild a program that had become a laughingstock under a string of mediocre coaches. When you throw in a BCS title from his time at LSU (albeit a shared title, since Southern Cal was voted No. 1 in The Associated Press poll), he's matched Bryant for the most championships by any coach.

Another feather in Saban's cap is the way he's won his championships. During the 2011 season, the Crimson Tide stifled LSU 21-0 with one of the great defensive performances in college football history. Two years ago, Alabama needed a dynamic offense and great special teams play to pull out a 45-40 victory over Clemson.

This time, he had to make a change right in the middle of the game at the most prominent position on the field.

Saban shows no signs of slowing down or giving the least bit of thought to retirement. He'll celebrate this title like he did all the other ones, for about 24 hours before he gets back to work in pursuit of No. 7.

"Every team wants to be successful," he said. "The message to the team tonight after this game was I hope you take something from this game and the resiliency that you showed in this game and it helps you to be more successful in life."

"It's not just about winning the championship," Saban added, no doubt remembering a final-second loss to Clemson in last year's title game. "I know that's what you all write about and what you talk about and all that. We like winning, and we hate losing. But there's more to it than that."

Winning sure makes it a lot more fun, though.

As Smith hauled in the title-clinching pass, Saban ripped off his headset, threw his arms in the air and let out a bit of a scream.

For once in his life, he seemed caught off guard.

It only lasted a moment. "I couldn't believe it," Saban said, shaking his head and repeating himself.

"I could not believe it."

Follow Paul Newbery on Twitter at twitter.com/pnewbery1963.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

‘He just stepped up and did his thing’

Backup freshman QB Tagovailoa takes over at halftime, turns Tide’s fortune for title

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

To add another championship to the greatest dynasty college football has ever seen, Alabama turned to its quarterback of the future, and Tua Tagovailoa proved that his time is now.

The freshman quarterback, who had played mostly mop-up duty this season, came off the bench to spark a comeback and threw a 41-yard touchdown to DeVonta Smith that gave No. 4 Alabama a 26-23 overtime victory against No. 3 Georgia on Monday night for the College Football Playoff national championship.

Tagovailoa entered the game at halftime, replacing a struggling Jalen Hurts, and threw three touchdown passes to give the Crimson Tide its fifth national championship since 2009 under coach Nick Saban.

“He just stepped in and did his thing,” Hurts said. “He’s built for stuff like this. I’m so happy for him.” The Tide might have a quarterback controversy ahead, but first Alabama will celebrate another title.

For the third straight season, Alabama played a classic CFP final. The Tide split two with Clemson, losing last season on a touchdown with a second left.

What was Saban thinking as the winning pass soared this time?

“I could not believe it,” he said. “There’s lots of highs and lows. Last year we lost on the last play of the game and this year we won on the last play of the game. These kids really responded the right way. We said last year, ‘Don’t waste the feeling.’ They sure didn’t, the way they played tonight.”

Smith streaked into the end zone and moments later confetti rained and even Saban seemed almost giddy after watching maybe the most improbable victory of his unmatched career. A few hours later, Alabama was voted No. 1 in the final AP college football poll for the 11th time, three more than any other program.

After Alabama kicker Andy Pappanastos missed a 36-yard field goal that would have won it for the Tide (13-1) in the final seconds of regulation, Georgia (13-2) took the lead with a 51-yard field goal from Rodrigo Blankenship in overtime.

Tagovailoa took a terrible sack on Alabama’s first play, losing 16 yards. Qn the next he found Smith, another freshman, and hit him in stride for the national championship.

Tagovailoa was brilliant at times, though he had a few freshman moments. He threw an interception when he tried to pass on a running play and all his receivers were blocking. He also darted away from pass rushers and made some impeccable throws, showing poise of a veteran. Facing fourth-and-goal from the 7, down seven, the left-hander moved to his left and zipped a pass through traffic that hit Calvin Ridley in the numbers for the tying score with 3:49 left in the fourth quarter.

He finished 14-for-24 for 166 yards.

After sacks, he just got up and took it to the next play,” Tagovailoa said. “I looked back out, and he was wide open. Smitty was wide open.” Freshmen were everywhere for the Alabama offense in the second half: Najee Harris at running back; Henry Ruggs III at receiver; Alex Leatherwood at left tackle after All-American Jonah Williams was hurt. It’s a testament to the relentless machine Saban has built.

But this game will be remembered most



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS BANNER-HERALD/AP



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Above: Georgia outside linebacker Davin Bellamy takes down Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa in overtime of the national championship game on Monday in Atlanta. **Right:** Tagovailoa raises the championship trophy after leading the Tide to a 26-23 victory in overtime.

This was nothing like the others.

With President Trump in attendance, the all-Southeastern Conference matchup was all Georgia in the first half before Saban pulled Hurts and the five-star recruit from Hawaii entered. The president watched the second half from Air Force One.

“I don’t know how Coach Saban found me all the way in Hawaii from Alabama,” Tagovailoa said. “Thank God he found me and we’re here right now.”

The Tide trailed 20-7 in the third quarter after Georgia’s freshman quarterback, Jake Fromm, hit Mecole Hardman for an 80-yard touchdown pass that had the Georgia fans feeling good about ending a national title drought that dates back to 1980.

Fromm threw for 232 yards and for a while it looked as if he was going to be the freshman star of the game, the first to true freshman to lead the team to a national title since Jameel Holieway for Oklahoma in 1985.

“I mean, if you want to find out about Jake Fromm, go ask those guys on the other side of the ball, and they’ll tell you because that’s a really good defense he just went against,” Georgia coach Smart said.

A little less than a year after the Atlanta Falcons blew a 25-point lead and lost in overtime to the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl, there was more pain for many of the local fans. Two years ago, Georgia brought in Smart, Saban’s top lieut-

enant, to bring to his alma mater a dose of Alabama’s Process.

Smart, who spent 11 seasons with Saban — eight as defensive coordinator in Tuscaloosa — quickly built ‘Bama East. It was Georgia that won the SEC this season. Alabama had to slip into the playoff without even winning its division.

With the title game being played 70 miles from Georgia’s campus in Athens, Dawgs fans packed Mercedes-Benz Stadium, but it turned out to be sweet home for Alabama. Now Saban is 12-0 against his former assistants.

But not without angst.

Alabama drove into the red zone in the final minute and Saban started playing for a winning field goal to end the game. A nervous quiet gripped the crowd of 77,430 as ‘Bama burned the clock. With the ball spotted in the middle of the field, Pappanastos lined up for a kick to win the national championship. The snap and hold looked fine, but the kicked missed badly to the left.

For the second straight week, Georgia was going to overtime. The Bulldogs beat Oklahoma in a wild Rose Bowl in double overtime to get here, and after Jonathan Ledbetter and Davin Bellamy sacked Tagovailoa for a big loss on the first play, Alabama was in trouble — second-and-26.

Not for long. Tagovailoa looked off the safety and threw the biggest touchdown pass in the history of Alabama football.

SPORTS



Timberwolves cruise
to rare win over Cavs
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TITLE SURGE

**Freshman QB rallies Alabama past Georgia
in overtime for national championship**

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Alabama wide receiver Devonta Smith scores the game-winning touchdown in front of Georgia defensive back Malkom Parrish during overtime Monday in Atlanta.

Georgia can't find more OT magic
in heartbreaking loss » **Page 29**

QB swap leads to Saban's sixth — and
greatest — national title » **Page 30**

